

Horfield Methodist Church Annual Report: September 2023 - August 2024

Context

Horfield Methodist Church is part of the Bristol and South Gloucestershire Circuit, which includes over thirty churches across both local authority areas, led by a Superintendent Minister. This circuit is one of nine in the Bristol Methodist District, which also covers most of Gloucestershire and part of both Wiltshire and Somerset.

We utilise buildings on two sites in Horfield and Bishopston.

The minister appointed to Horfield has oversight of two other churches in the Circuit as well as Horfield and Bishopston, so about seventy percent of our acts of worship are led by one of his ordained colleagues or by a Methodist Local (lay) Preacher. We acknowledge the contribution that each of them makes to our core activity of Christian worship.

Year under review

A recent review of our membership has identified a number of people who no longer attend the church for various reasons. The membership list has been amended, and we now report a more accurate membership of 100 people, plus supporters who attend.

Regular worship activities continue with Sunday morning services. The service from the Horfield site is also available online via Zoom. Junior Church children have their own activities after a short time of family worship. A young peoples' group is offered, but the take-up is limited.

Community and outreach activities continue with Messy Church, Little Fishes (our toddler group), Film Club and coffee mornings. While there is no shortage of ideas for expanding such activities there are limitations as to what can be achieved with the volunteer-power available. There are fewer people willing to take on roles/responsibilities within the church and those who already do are fully committed. All working groups and committees have been reviewed, looking at the current list of meetings (who attends, what the meeting purpose is, effectiveness etc) with the intention of trying to reduce the workload and see if any activities could be combined or streamlined. With the sad loss of one of our most dedicated and experienced church members and trustees, the church has grappled with succession planning for key roles. This remains an issue, but we are grateful to all those who take up any responsibilities.

Messy Church is run on a monthly basis and draws children and young families who do not otherwise attend the church. Messy Church in December 2023 coincided with our outreach activity, the 'Christmas Journey', giving everyone the opportunity to hear the bible story of God's reason for sending his Son to earth. On Christmas Eve we explored the idea that Jesus and his parents were homeless and needed to seek shelter, building a shelter out of cardboard boxes, as many of the homeless in Bristol have to do to try to keep safe and warm.

The church continues to be ecologically aware, and representatives from other Methodist churches in the area are part of the eco group, giving an opportunity to share best practice. The church offsets its emissions annually, has themed fund-raising events for eco projects and ensures that there are regular church services which focus on the environment and the climate crisis. The church has arranged litterpick events, collecting litter and rubbish from streets around one of the church buildings.

The church has continued to tighten up on its responses to GDPR, Safeguarding and Equality, Diversity & Inclusion. This has included making use of electronic filing methods, the greater use of dedicated email addresses, helping in terms of GDPR and with the added benefit of providing some measure of resilience; as well as following up on individuals' responses to training requirements.

Finances are reasonably healthy, but we maintain close control of our expenditure and use of resources. The medium to long term future of retaining both sites will inevitably come under review in the next few years.

The upkeep of ageing buildings, on both sites, after many years of just basic repairs has continued, and is likely to continue, to bring challenging decisions about prioritising expenditure. Major items addressed have been repair work to the porch, bay window and top fascia boards on the front gable at one site. External signage has been revamped and updated, giving a brighter, more impactful impression to passers-by on our main road positions. Other

redcoration and repairs have been ongoing. We are planning significant expenditure to replace the paths at the front of the Horfield building, to ensure health and safety for our visitors is maintained.

The congregation is very diverse and we are proud of offering a warm welcome to all comers. We are seeing new people attending which is testament to the welcome and demonstrates the ideals of the Inclusive Church movement.

Rev Martin Slocombe
on behalf of the Managing Trustees, 19 February 2025

Standard Form of Accounts – Horfield Methodist Church

CHURCH RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS			
THE METHODIST CHURCH			
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS			
			Church
FOR THE YEAR ENDED			
31 August 2024			
Bristol & South Gloucestershire	Circuit	Circuit no.	7/2
Registered Charity - Charity Registration number			1191908
If not a registered charity His Majesty's Revenue and Customs Gift Aid number			26699
(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. Martin Slocombe			
Church Stewards:			
Lou Carias		Pam Gannon	
Pauline Harris		Christine Williams	
Jennifer McLaren		Donna Sharpe	
Treasurer:			
Helen Wallbridge			

INCOME STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024				Horfield Methodist		Church	
SECTION A			Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year		Totals last year
			£	£	£		£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note					
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		46,562.46		46,562.46		48,491.95
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		2,962.86		2,962.86		1,464.04
a4	Lettings		76,056.50		76,056.50		65,914.96
a5	Other receipts		7,929.48	203.97	8,133.45		7,290.03
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS		133,511.30	203.97	133,715.27	(a7)	123,160.98
SECTION B							
b1	PAYMENTS						
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		66,228.00		66,228.00		67,965.45
b3	Donations		81.76		81.76		426.42
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		30,799.93		30,799.93		20,735.13
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		18,098.28		18,098.28		17,819.95
b6							
b7	Other payments		3,594.76	203.97	3,798.73		20,443.64
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS		118,802.73	203.97	119,006.70	(b9)	127,390.59
SECTION C							
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	14,708.57		14,708.57		(4,229.61)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		80,861.21		80,861.21	(c6)	85,090.82
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	95,569.78		95,569.78		80,861.21
c4	Transfers and adjustments					(c7)	
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	95,569.78		95,569.78	(c8)	80,861.21 (c6)
SECTION D							
FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS							
d	(these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)				£		£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year				125.05		
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations				3,974.01		4,490.73
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations				3,678.56		4,365.68
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1+d2-d3)				420.50		125.05

2 of 5

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 Little Fishes	1,097.15	1,089.92	7.23		268.92	276.15
e2						
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	1,097.15	1,089.92	7.23		268.92 (e11)	276.15
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	133,715.27 (a7)	119,006.70 (b9)	14,708.57	(c7)	80,861.21 (c6)	95,569.78
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	134,812.42	120,096.62	14,715.80		81,130.13 (x)	95,845.93
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 2024	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand	7.35	121.00
f2 Bank Current Account	27,772.15	25,968.95
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	20,270.37	39,928.97
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	32,811.34	29,550.86
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	80,861.21 (c6)	95,569.78
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	268.92 (e11)	276.15
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	81,130.13 (x)	95,845.93

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		

Name of Church **Horfield Methodist** No7/2

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 H.E. Wallbridge Date 4/11/2024

Name and address of treasurer HELEN WALLBRIDGE
20 CRANLEY CRES, HENLEAZE, BRISTOL Post Code BS9 4PG

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on

Signature of the Chair of the meeting Martin Slacomb

Name of the Chair of the meeting MARTIN SLACOMB Date 13/11/2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Horfield Methodist Church

Charity Number 1191908

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Church **Horfield Methodist** No **7/2**

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

E. Drane

Name of independent examiner

E. Drane

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

Name of firm (where appropriate)

E. Drane Bookkeeping Services

Address

45 Gormbe Bridge Ave.

Sole Director

Post Code *BS9 2LT*

Date

29/10/24

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Church **Horfield Methodist** No **7/2**

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

E. Drane

Name of independent examiner

E. Drane

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

Name of firm (where appropriate)

E. Drane Bookkeeping Services

Address

45 Gormbe Bridge Ave.

Sole Director

Post Code *BS9 2LT*

Date

29/10/24

* delete or circle as appropriate