

Horfield Methodist Church Annual Report: September 2024 - August 2025

Context

Horfield Methodist Church is part of the Bristol and South Gloucestershire Circuit, which includes 33 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 parts of both Wiltshire and Somerset.

We utilise buildings on two sites in Horfield and Bishopston, with a combined membership of 99, and is used by 21 community groups throughout the week.

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 or church leaders who work as a team to provide services with a particular focus and including guest speakers from charities we support. We acknowledge the contribution that each of them makes to our core activity of Christian worship.

Year under review

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, although the group with its leaders enjoyed participating in the Methodist Church's national 3Generate, a weekend of fun and worship, held at Birmingham's NEC. A number of local charities and organisations have been invited to share their work with us. Average attendance at services is 51 at Horfield and 9 at Bishopston. A number of study/discussion groups have been held throughout the year, and have been well supported, as we seek to develop our Christian understanding and outlook. Baptisms, weddings and funerals have been celebrated, as the need arises.

The General Church Meeting in April provided a list of priorities from the Mission Action Plan to guide the Leadership Team. From this, the leadership team has agreed the plan and will look at a specific action from the plan at each of its meetings and review the progress being made by the group responsible. We have improved our websites and work is ongoing to enhance our social media presence.

The recent merger (2021) with nearby Bishopston Methodist Church, continues to move forward, for example we now have just one bank account. Mainly due to the challenges of identifying preachers we have increased the frequency of 'whole church' services where congregants from our two sites join together. This usually takes place at the Horfield site for practical reasons.

Community and outreach activities continue with Messy Church (run on a monthly basis), term-time weekly sessions of Little Fishes (our toddler group), 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. We completed a review of all working groups and committees and have streamlined these and reduced time commitments from our volunteer base. The church is aware of the need to succession plan for key roles. This remains a challenge, not just locally but across the Methodist Church of Great Britain as a whole, but we are grateful to all those who take up any responsibilities.

We held a successful 'Meet and Greet' morning in the summer which was welcomed by building users. The intention was to encourage interactions between groups, users of both church buildings but was also a chance for us to introduce ourselves and have the opportunity to show the work that we are involved in and engage with people about our efforts on Eco work, Inclusive Church, Winter Night Shelter and Christians at Bristol Pride.

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. Items of note were some work which came to light during the fire risk assessment at one site and replacement of deteriorating and disintegrating stage curtains at the other site. Major expenditure on the front paths and the courtyard at the Horfield site was carried out in the

summer. We were fortunate to receive grants towards this work as well as donations from members, individuals' fund raising at the Bristol 10k and church fund raising activities. Finishing off touches are still to take place.

The church continues to be ecologically aware. It runs regular activities to promote care of the environment and the climate crisis, and arranges litterpick events in the streets around one of the church buildings. Our young people have constructed a number of bug hotels and have planted some bee-friendly herb seeds, which can go into the new planters in the courtyard. We were grateful to be awarded a grant to install a smart thermostat for the boilers at the larger site.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Slocombe', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rev Martin Slocombe
on behalf of the Managing Trustees, February 2026

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Horfield Methodist	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2025

Bristol & South Gloucestershire	Circuit	Circuit no.	7/2
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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. Marin Slocombe

Church Stewards:

Lou Carias	Pam Gannon
Pauline Harris	Christine Williams
Jennifer McLaren	Donna Sharpe

Treasurer:

Helen Wallbridge

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Horfield Methodist

Church

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	49,374		49,374	46,562
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	3,547		3,547	2,963
a4	Lettings	83,446		83,446	76,057
a5	Other receipts	12,055	9,127	21,183	8,133
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	148,423	9,127	157,550 (a7)	133,715

SECTION B		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	65,088		65,088	66,228
b3	Donations	25		25	82
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	7,470		7,470	30,800
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	22,578		22,578	18,098
b6					
b7	Other payments	33,960	9,127	43,087	3,799
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	129,120	9,127	138,248 (b9)	119,007

SECTION C		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR (a6-b8)	19,302		19,302	14,709
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year	95,570		95,570 (c6)	80,861
c3	Sub total (c1+c2)	114,872		114,872	95,570
c4	Transfers and adjustments				(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR (c3+c4)	114,872		114,872 (c8)	95,570 (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)		
d1	Balance brought forward from last year	421	125
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations	2,356	3,974
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	2,776	3,679
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1+d2-d3)	0	421

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 Little Fishes	1,102	1,234	(132)		276	144
e2						
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	1,102	1,234	(132)		276 (e11)	144 (e12)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	157,550 (a7)	138,248 (b9)	19,302	(c7)	95,570 (c6)	114,872 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	158,652	139,482	19,170		95,846 (x)	115,016 (y)
TOTAL RECEIPTS		TOTAL PAYMENTS				

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

SECTION F

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD AT 31 August 2025		OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		121	20
f2 Bank Current Account		25,969	8,665
f3 Bank Deposit Account			
f4 Central Finance Board		39,929	66,813
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		29,551	39,374
f6 Other funds			
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts		95,570 (c6)	114,872 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)		276 (e11)	144 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH		95,846 (x)	115,016 (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)		
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 Horfield Methodist

No 7/2

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 H. E. Wallbridge Date 17/9/25

Name and address of treasurer HELEN WALLBRIDGE, 20 CRANSLEY CRESCENT,
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 2025 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 20/10/2025

Signature of the Chair of the meeting [Signature]

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev N. S. Roberts Date 20/10/2025

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 2025 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

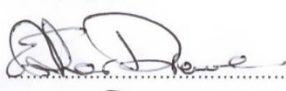
Independent Examiner's Statement

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 

Name of independent examiner E. Dave Boulton

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner Accountant

Name of firm (where appropriate) E. Dave Boulton Services

Address 45 Cornhill House Ave

50012 Broomfield Post Code B39 2LT

Date 23 Sept 25

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Church Horfield Methodist No 7/2

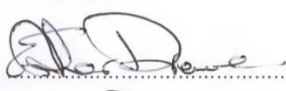
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Name of independent examiner E. Dave Boulton

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner Accountant

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Address 45 Cornhill House Ave

50012 Broomfield Post Code B39 2LT

Date 23 Sept 25

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