

Marlow Methodist Church
Report and Accounts for the Year Ended 31st August 2024

Marlow Methodist Church (registered Charity No. 1199146) is situated in Spittal Street Marlow, SL7 3HJ

Mission Statement

We embrace Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. Through a variety of Worship, prayer and service we encourage spiritual growth and nurture a caring fellowship that reaches out to the wider community.

Worship

Our minister, Rev Kate Strange has been instrumental in guiding us through new initiatives in all areas of our worship. Regular Sunday morning worship continues although there is an increasing reliance on local lay preachers and local arrangements due to the fact that our minister has commitments to her other churches. The Wednesday fellowship continues to meet most weeks and there are other additional services to mark special occasions, especially around Christmas and Easter. The Sunday Services continue to be streamed online via the Church website and we are aware that the online congregation is growing.

The Ark Cafe

The Ark café continues to be highly successful as a place of hospitality, welcome and friendship in a warm 'safe space'. Its location in the centre of Marlow puts it in an unrivalled position to offer these benefits to the general public. The use of students with learning challenges as volunteer helpers continues to mark the café as a truly community driven enterprise.

The Ark Café Management group meet regularly to oversee the running of the Ark Café and have now settled with a team of paid staff such that there will be 2 paid staff on duty at any one time (one in the kitchen and one 'front of house') to take responsibility and guide the volunteers.

The Ark has now started to run community lunches twice a month.

Children's Work

The church employs a part time Children and Families worker who started in July 2023. Her work is focussed on building relationships between the church and young families. She promotes and leads activities aimed at helping them grow in the Christian Faith.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care of the Church family continues to be provided by the minister and a team of pastoral visitors. Church members and others are visited should they be unable to attend church in person because they are elderly, sick (at home or in hospital). The pastoral leaders provide support in many ways, spiritual or otherwise.

Fellowship Groups

Small groups meet on a regular basis, either in the Church premises or in member's homes for the purposes of prayer, Bible Study or other religious and educational activities. Groups meet regularly and there is a monthly 'church lunch'.

Use of Premises for the Public Benefit

The hall and ancillary rooms are extensively used by local community organisations, these include parent and toddler groups, Choral Society rehearsals, Camera club, Pilates, Dementia group, arts society and 'Sing Your Pain Away music group.

Governance

The Governing body of Marlow Methodist Church is the Church Council, the members of which are its Trustees. The Council includes ex-officio members by virtue of the office they hold within the church. Representatives of Church organisations and members are appointed at the Annual General Church Meeting. The Church Council appoints Church Stewards who, together with the minister form the Leadership Team. Trustees automatically change as members of the Church Council changes from time to time.

The Church Council act as managing Trustees for the Church building, which is held on Model Trusts. The custodian trustees holding legal title for the property are the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP).

The Church is part of the High Wycombe Methodist Circuit, a group of Methodist Churches in the High Wycombe area

The church has a website: www.marlowmethodistchurch.org.uk on which detailed information about its services and activities can be found.

Trustees

The names of Trustees during the year were:

Rev Katie Strange	Hazel (Tina) Ashburner
Valerie Cameron	Robert Crawshaw
Steven Crawshaw	James Casper
Rosaline Drew	Michael Wright
Jacqueline Duxbury	Susan Gallagher

Annie Roy Barker

Victoria Everitt

David Duxbury

Michael Standell

Carolyn Luscombe

Eryl Walker

Irene Bell

Judith Elliot

Elizabeth Riches

Linda Lovell

Paul Strange

Malcolm Shergold

Robert Gallagher

Financial Review

The Examined Accounts for FY 2023-2024 are attached and show a gross income from all sources (including Lettings and Café income) of £235,180 and a net deficit of £60,664/. The deficit was mostly made up through our spending of the previous year's 'windfall' on upgrading the heating system within the main sanctuary.

Receipts and Payments Analysis

The signed and agreed accounts below are in the standard form prescribed by The Methodist Church.

Reserves and other Policies and Funds

The Reserves Policy as agreed by the Church Council dated November 2023 is attached below.

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2024

Circuit	Circuit no.	2327
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number	1199146
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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 2014 No.242)

Minister:
REV KATE STRANGE

Church Stewards:
Mrs Ros Drew
Mr James Casper
Mrs Susan Gallagher
Mrs Annie Roy-Baker

Treasurer:
Mr Mike Wright

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	62,526	10,197	72,723	88,953
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	7,178		7,178	3,080
a4	Lettings	16,851		16,851	15,402
a5	Other receipts	8,881	129,547	138,428	119,369
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	95,436	139,744	235,180 (a7)	226,804

SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	49,800		49,800	35,200
b3	Donations	9,828		9,828	8,330
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	10,132	56,652	66,784	19,893
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	13,654	2,200	15,854	17,256
b6					
b7	Other payments	12,667	140,911	153,578	80,668
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	96,081	199,763	295,844 (b9)	161,347

SECTION C					
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	(645)	(60,019)	(60,664)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		77,105	87,405	164,510 (c6)
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	76,460	27,386	103,846
c4	Transfers and adjustments		(18,238)	18,238	(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	58,222	45,624	103,846 (c8)
					164,510 (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			
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations		12,730	25,426
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations		12,730	25,426
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(d1+d2-d3)		

SUMMARY OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTING TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL**SECTION E**Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Church accounts for the year ended 31 August 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													
e2													
e3													
e4													
e5													
e6													
e7													
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds										(e11)		(e12)
e9	Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	235,180	(a7)	295,844	(b9)	(60,664)		(c7)		164,510	(c6)	103,846	(c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	235,180		295,844		(60,664)				164,510	(x)	103,846	(y)
Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward		TOTAL RECEIPTS		TOTAL PAYMENTS									

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

	OPENING BALANCES		CLOSING BALANCES	
f1			1,990	
f2	5,898		5,992	
f3				
f4	96,164		88,166	
f5	(2)		(2)	
f6	62,450		7,700	
f7	SUB TOTAL - Church accounts		103,846	
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)			
f9	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH		103,846	

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2023	At 31 August 2024
g1	415	415
g2	4,267,165	4,373,809
g3	137,446	140,881
g4		
g5		

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 Marlow Methodist Church..... No 2327.....

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

Name and address of treasurer Mike Wright. 54 Seymour Park Road, Marlow, SL7 3EP

..... Post Code.....

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 

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev Kate Strange..... Date

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

MARLOW METHODIST CHURCH

Charity Number 1199146

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Marlow Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages 1 to 4. 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: Marlow Methodist Church..... No ...2327

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 CHARLOTTE REDCLIFFE.....

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ICAEW.....

Name of firm (where appropriate)

4 Westminster Close, High Wycombe, HP11 1QR

..... Post Code

Date ..10/1/2025.....

* delete or circle as appropriate

Marlow Methodist Church Reserves Policy November 2023

Aims of the reserves policy

- To secure and sustain the viability and future of Marlow Methodist Church; and
- To give reassurance to members of the Church, and to the general public, that the Church (which is a charity) intends to use all of the money given to it for the purposes of its work.

Mission policy

Statement:

We embrace Jesus as Lord and Saviour; through variety of worship, prayer and service we encourage spiritual growth and nurture a caring fellowship in the church that reaches out to the wider community.

Aims:

- Provide an all inclusive variety of worship and teaching to address the needs of all people.
- Share and demonstrate our faith so that others find their way to God through Jesus.
- Provide the opportunity to develop spiritual growth for all.
- Encourage spiritual development and respond to the needs of children and young people.
- Provide a network for pastoral care.
- Promote a Christian understanding of daily living within the wider community.
- Assist in meeting the needs of the community.
- Share mission and worship with other churches in the area.
- Encourage and develop an open and welcoming fellowship.
- Manage our resources for the benefit of all.
- To run a not-for-profit community café.

Financial policy

To prepare an annual budget which includes:

- Income from weekly collections and planned giving;
- Other income from lettings, wedding and funeral fees, donations, fundraising, deposit interest and Gift Aid;
- The Circuit Assessment, which is agreed on an annual basis;
- A contribution to the "Outreach Fund" for donations to Connexional funds, to Methodist charities and to local charities;
- The costs of heating, lighting, insuring, cleaning and maintaining our building; and
- Printing and other sundry costs relating to the continuation of our work and witness in Marlow.

The annual statement of income and expenditure and the balance sheet are examined by an External Examiner and are presented to the Church Council, which is the managing trust for the Church.

Reserves Policy

We have a total of 8 funds:

General fund (unrestricted)

We have an obligation to meet the quarterly payment of the Circuit Assessment in advance and to meet the costs of running and maintaining our building and resourcing our work and witness. Our policy is to hold in our General Fund reserves of approximately six months expenditure.

Children and Young People's Worker Fund (restricted)

This fund is earmarked for income and expenditure associated with the employment of a Children's and Young People's Worker.

Outreach Fund (unrestricted)

An agreed amount from the General Fund is allocated each year for donations to Methodist charities and other national and local charities. A small amount of fundraising is also carried out.

Ten Year Plan (unrestricted) – Property Maintenance Provision.

An amount is transferred each year from the General Fund to provide for unexpected or exceptional expenditure relating to the Church property and its fixtures, fittings and equipment.

Premises Project Fund. (Restricted)

This fund was opened in Nov 2018 to hold income and expenditure connected with the Vision and Mission premises project.

It will hold monies identified for the project and raised through fundraising, direct donations, regular giving, grants and approved transfers from the general fund and 10 Year Plan. Expenditure will be that directly related to the Premises Project.

Wednesday Fellowship Fund. This fund receives income from donations during the group's activities. Its expenditure is for expenses related to its activities and donations to chosen outreach activities.

Cooinda Fund. This fund receives income from donations during the group's activities. Its expenditure is for expenses related to its activities and donations to chosen outreach activities.

Ark Café. (Restricted) Whilst recognising that the Ark Café is a part of the church and its mission, the accounts for the café will be treated as separately as possible in a sub-fund in order that its financial viability can be easily seen. The café fund will contribute to church general expenditure where deemed appropriate (eg cleaning contract, utilities and waste disposal). **This fund was made restricted following the Church Council in July 2023.**

Mike Wright
Treasurer

Confirm by Church Council 1 November 2023