

Wesley Place Methodist Church, Alsager
Registered Charity No:1142234

TRUSTEES` ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2023

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Wesley Place Methodist Church is based in Alsager, Cheshire. Opened in 1869 Wesley Place celebrated its 150th Anniversary in 2019. The Church was built to provide for a growing population in Alsager made popular by the advent of the railway and to supplement the original one room Methodist Chapel in Hassall Road Alsager built in 1834 and extended in 1852. As the congregation grew in 1969 Wesley Place added a modern extension building to accommodate its growing Sunday School in 1969.

Wesley Place Methodist Church Alsager is part of Cheshire South Methodist Circuit.

Varying styles of Sunday Worship are offered from traditional to a shorter reflective devotion in addition to a brunch, messy church and an opportunity to learn new hymns and songs. On Wednesday Morning we meet in fellowship and share Holy Communion.

The Church Hall and additional buildings are used extensively for our own mission activities and by others or hired out for a wide range of community purposes throughout the week.

Managing Trustees 2022/23:

Rev Robert Hilton	Peter Morris
Isabel Brislen	Janet Keen
Margaret Keeling	Jonny Newbould
Lesley Elizabeth Peake	Catherine Bowen-Fanstone
David Michael Crompton	Helen Robertson
Sandra Fawley Moors	Alison Jane Steele
Celia Mary Crompton	Harriet Emily Weatherby Crompton
Dorothy Anne Milner	Alicia Rose Weatherby Crompton
Valerie Snowden	Andrew Dale Shaw
Gwynneth Proudlove	Natasha Jane Walker
Sarah Simpkin	Sandra Laura Rawlinson
Carol Challinor	Daniel Mark Keen
Christianne Morris	

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

During the Covid pandemic the Church buildings remained closed but pastoral care continued and online Zoom services on a Sunday replaced in person worship. Observing COVID restrictions the Church continued to connect with the membership and pastoral roll but in 2022 when the Church reopened the Sunday congregation was much reduced. Covid had taken its toll.

However, the Church has set about new mission objectivities focused upon community outreach and has continued to successfully build and expand its activities,

Dinner Hub

Youth work

The Ark

Hope Journey

Christmas Tree Festival

Action for Children Saturday Coffee

Monday Games

FINANCIAL REVIEW

FINANCIAL REPORT

The method of accounting used is that of Receipts and Payments and the Methodist Standard Form of Accounts, which is attached to this report, summarises the Receipts and Payments for the year ending **31 August 2023**.

The Church finances and congregation were depleted because of the pandemic lockdowns and restrictions between January 2020 and July 2021 but have since shown a gradual improvement.

Our largest outgoing was the Circuit Assessment which amounted to **£42,333** which included a 25% discount provided by the Circuit to its churches to assist them in their recovery from the impact of the Covid pandemic.

Total Church receipts amounted to **£72,726** and Payments came to **£69,104** leaving a surplus of **£3,622**.

Our offerings and Tax recovered in the year totalled **£51,109**, a little down on the previous year as were the room lettings which came to **£7,355**.

Fundraising receipts from our Christmas Tree Festival in November 2022 amounted to **£5,391**.

Our Church members and volunteers continue to put considerable effort into fundraising events and seeking grant support to secure the finances required to support mission outreach.

RESERVES

A Reserves Policy has been prepared. On 31 August 2023, the General Fund held **£14,006** and our restricted funds a sum of **£49,540** reserved for a future mission-based building project.

A draft Budget for 2023/24 has been prepared with expenditure forecast at **£95,309**, and with income behind it at **£69,256**.

We have been unable to rebuild our reserves where we aim to hold up to 50% of our annual expenditure.

THE FUTURE

We are conscious that without the Circuit Assessment discount our small surplus for 2022/2023 would have been wiped out and we expect a particularly challenging year financially when the Circuit Assessment returns to normal levels. Further during 2023/2024 our energy contracts negotiated 3 years ago expire so we anticipate significantly higher energy costs when new contracts are arranged. The forecast budget for 2023/24 shows that we expect to be in deficit at year end, so as well as fund raising, we will be seeking grants to enable our mission work to continue.

DECLARATIONS

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature

Full Name

Position

Date

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Wesley Place Methodist Church, Alsager	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2023

Cheshire South	Circuit	Circuit no.	11/18
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1200390

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

(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Minister:

Rev'd Rob Hilton

Church Stewards:

Lesley Peake - Senior	Dot Milner
Sandra Rawlinson	
Catherine Bowen Fanstone	
Andrew Shaw	
Harriet Crompton	
Alicia Crompton	
Natasha Walker	

Treasurer:

David Crompton

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	51,109		51,109	52,896
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	1,689		1,689	203
a4	Lettings	7,355		7,355	8,392
a5	Other receipts	12,573		12,573	26,845
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	72,726		72,726 (a7)	88,336

SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	42,333		42,333	56,443
b3	Donations	1,772		1,772	50
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	4,492		4,492	8,630
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	11,089		11,089	10,259
b6					
b7	Other payments	9,418		9,418	7,064
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	69,104		69,104 (b9)	82,446

SECTION C					
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	3,622	3,622	5,890
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		59,924	59,924 (c6)	54,035
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	63,546	63,546	59,925
c4	Transfers and adjustments				(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	63,546	63,546 (c8)	59,925 (c5)

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		(60)		(60)
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations		154		192
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations		154		192
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(d1+d2-d3)	(60)		(60)

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 2023 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)	72,726 (a7)	69,104 (b9)	3,622	(c7)	59,924 (c6)	63,546 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	72,726	69,104	3,622		59,924 (x)	63,546 (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 2023**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	12,072	14,006
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board (2 Accounts)	47,851	49,540
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	59,923 (c6)	63,546 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	(e11)	(e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	59,923 (x)	63,546 (y)

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)	3,667,592	4,188,357
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 . **Wesley Place Methodist Church, Alsager**

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2023 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.

Signature of treasurer *David Crompton* Date 24 October 2023

Name and address of treasurer: David Crompton, 21, Station Road, Alsager, Stoke On Trent ST7 2PJ

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 25 October 2023

Signature of the Chair of the meeting *Robert Hilton*

Name of the Chair of the meeting ROBERT HILTON Date 25/10/23

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Wesley Place Methodist Church, Alsager

Charity Number 1200390

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Wesley Place Methodist Church, Alsager for the year ended 31 August 2023 set out on pages 1 to 3. As the Church's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Church .. Wesley Place Methodist Church, Alsager

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 Roger Pask

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner Retired Compnay Director

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 36, Wesley Avenue Alsager Cheshire

..... Post Code ST7 2NG

Date 24 OCTOBER 2023

* delete or circle as appropriate

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