

# **Wesley Place Methodist Church, Alsager**

## **Registered Charity No:1142234**

### **TRUSTEES` ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2024**

##### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

Wesley Place Methodist Church is based in Alsager, Cheshire. Opened in 1869 Wesley Place celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

Varying styles of Sunday Worship are offered from traditional to 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 2023/24:**

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

### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The Church has continued with its mission objectives focused upon community outreach successfully building and expanding its activities including: -

Dinner Hub

Youth Club Activities

The Ark

Hope Journey

Action for Children Saturday Coffee

Monday Games

Wednesday Morning Service

Christmas Tree Festival



## 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 2024**.

The Church finances and congregation were depleted because of the pandemic lockdowns and restrictions between January 2020 and July 2021. Since the end of the Pandemic the congregation has started to return and new mission initiatives commenced. Although the Church remains financially challenged the congregation is currently stable as is the revenue stream.

Our largest outgoing was the Circuit Assessment which amounted to **£55,745**, much higher than in the previous year when we had benefitted from 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 **£88,368** and Payments came to **£95,480** resulting in a deficit of **£7,112**.

Our offerings and Tax recovered in the year totaled **£47,009**, a little down on the previous year but the room lettings increased to **£7,820**.

Fundraising receipts from our Christmas Tree Festival in November 2023 amounted to **£5,500**, a little higher than in 2022.

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 2024, the General Fund held **£6,336** and our restricted funds a sum of **£50,098** reserved for a building refurbishment project.

A draft Budget for 2024/25 has been prepared with expenditure forecast at **£79,904**, and income payments at **£83,770**, so exceeding payments.

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

### THE FUTURE

Last year we were conscious that without the Circuit Assessment discount our small surplus for 2022/2023 would have been wiped out. We expected a particularly challenging 2023/2024 year financially, when the Circuit Assessment returned to its normal level, and as forecast a year end deficit was realised.

Anticipating then the heightened risk of running out of funds in 2024/2025 we have negotiated a 10-year interest free loan of **£17,420** from Cheshire South Circuit, representing the first four monthly Circuit Assessments commencing 1 September 2024. The capital is repayable over 10 years by annual instalments of **£1,742** commencing September 2025.

This loan will relieve the pressure on our finances whilst we continue our mission in the community and look to grow both our Church congregation and income..

## **DECLARATIONS**

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature

Full Name

Position

Date

## THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| <b>Wesley Place Methodist Church, Alsager</b> | <b>Church</b> |
|---|---------------|

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED**

**31 August 2024**

|                       |                |                    |              |
|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------|
| <b>Cheshire South</b> | <b>Circuit</b> | <b>Circuit no.</b> | <b>11/18</b> |
|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------|

**Registered Charity - Charity Registration number**

**1200390**

**If not a registered charity His 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:**

|                         |
|-------------------------|
| <b>Rev'd Rob Hilton</b> |
|-------------------------|

**Church Stewards:**

|                                  |
|----------------------------------|
| Alicia Crompton - Senior Steward |
| Harriet Crompton                 |
| Catherine Bowen- Fanstone        |
| Natasha Walker                   |
| Andrew Shaw                      |
| Sarah Simpkin                    |
|                                  |

**Treasurer:**

|                       |
|-----------------------|
| <b>David Crompton</b> |
|-----------------------|

| SECTION A |   |      | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Totals this year | Totals last year |
|-----------|---|------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|           |   | Note | £                  | £                | £                | £                |
| a1        | <b>RECEIPTS</b>                             |      |                    |                  |                  |                  |
| a2        | Offerings and Tax recovered                 |      | 47,009             |                  | 47,009           | 51,110           |
| a3        | Bank and CFB interest and Investment income |      | 123                | 2,533            | 2,656            | 1,689            |
| a4        | Lettings                                    |      | 7,820              |                  | 7,820            | 7,355            |
| a5        | Other receipts                              |      | 28,683             | 2,200            | 30,883           | 12,573           |
| a6        | <b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>                       |      | <b>83,636</b>      | <b>4,733</b>     | <b>88,368</b>    | <b>72,727</b>    |

| SECTION B |   |  |               |              |               |               |
|-----------|---|--|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| b1        | <b>PAYMENTS</b>   |  |               |              |               |               |
| b2        | Circuit Assessment or Share                               |  | 55,746        |              | 55,746        | 42,333        |
| b3        | Donations   |  | 428           |              | 428           | 1,772         |
| b4        | Repairs and Maintenance                                   |  | 5,649         |              | 5,649         | 4,492         |
| b5        | Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting) |  | 19,223        |              | 19,223        | 11,089        |
| b6        | Other Regular Running Costs                               |  | 10,978        | 3,456        | 14,434        | 3,545         |
| b7        | Other payments  |  |               |              |               | 5,873         |
| b8        | <b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>                                     |  | <b>92,024</b> | <b>3,456</b> | <b>95,480</b> | <b>69,104</b> |

| SECTION C |  |                |                |              |                |                         |
|-----------|--|----------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| c1        | <b>NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR</b>  | <b>(a6-b8)</b> | <b>(8,388)</b> | <b>1,277</b> | <b>(7,111)</b> | <b>3,623</b>            |
| c2        | Total funds brought forward from last year |                |                |              | 63,546         | (c6) 59,924             |
| c3        | <b>Sub total</b>                           | <b>(c1+c2)</b> | <b>(8,388)</b> | <b>1,277</b> | <b>56,434</b>  | <b>63,546</b>           |
| c4        | Transfers and adjustments                  |                |                |              |                | (c7)                    |
| c5        | <b>TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR</b>          | <b>(c3+c4)</b> | <b>(8,388)</b> | <b>1,277</b> | <b>56,434</b>  | <b>(c8) 63,546 (c6)</b> |

| SECTION D   |  |                   |     |  |             |
|---|--|-------------------|-----|--|-------------|
| <b>FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS</b> |  |                   |     |  |             |
| d   | <b>(these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)</b> |                   |     |  |             |
| d1  | Balance brought forward from last year   |                   |     |  | (60)        |
| d2  | Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations                                  |                   | 524 |  |             |
| d3  | Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations                                     |                   | 524 |  |             |
| d4  | <b>BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID</b>  | <b>(d1+d2-d3)</b> |     |  | <b>(60)</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/<br>Payments |  | Adjustments |  | Opening<br>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) | 88,368         | (a7) | 95,480         | (b9) | (7,111)                   |  | (c7)        |  | 63,546              | (c6)  | 56,434           | (c8)  |
| e10  | TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH                                      | 88,368         |      | 95,480         |      | (7,111)                   |  |             |  | 63,546              | (x)   | 56,434           | (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<br>BALANCES   |               | CLOSING<br>BALANCES |              |
|----|---|---------------|---------------------|--------------|
| f1 | Cash in hand  | 14,006        | 5,311               |              |
| f2 | Bank Current Account  | 902           | 1,025               |              |
| f3 | Bank Deposit Account  |               |                     |              |
| f4 | Central Finance Board Investment Account  | 48,638        | 50,098              |              |
| f5 | Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes  |               |                     |              |
| f6 | Other funds CFB Project Account   |               |                     |              |
| f7 | <b>SUB TOTAL - Church accounts</b>  | <b>63,546</b> | <b>56,434</b>       | <b>(c8)</b>  |
| f8 | Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12) |               |                     | <b>(e12)</b> |
| f9 | <b>TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH</b>  | <b>63,546</b> | <b>56,434</b>       | <b>(y)</b>   |

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

|    | At<br>1 September 2023                          | At<br>31 August 2024 |
|----|---|----------------------|
| g1 | Investments (include Endowments)                |                      |
| g2 | Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value) | 4,176,192            |
| 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 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

13 September 2024

Name and address of treasurer ..... **David Crompton**

**Parkholme, 23 Station Road, Alsager ST7 2PJ**

### 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 13 November 2024

Signature of the Chair of the meeting



Name of the Chair of the meeting

ROBERT HILTON

Date

13/11/24

## 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 the WESLEY PLACE METHODIST CHURCH 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 . **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 .. **Company Director (Retired)**

Name of firm (where appropriate) .....

Address **36 Wesley Road, Alsager**

..... Post Code **ST7 2NG**

Date ..... **7<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024.**

\* delete or circle as appropriate

## RESERVES POLICY of

**Wesley Place Methodist Church, Alsager**(\*Church Council ☒ Circuit Meeting ☐ / District ☐)

|    |  |         |
|----|--|---------|
| 1. | <b>General Funds</b> held at Y/E 31/08/2024    | £6,336  |
| 2. | <b>Restricted Funds</b> held at Y/E 31/08/2024 | £50,098 |
| 3. | <b>Endowment Funds</b> held at Y/E 31/08/2024  | £0      |

**4. Reserves policy for General Funds**

The General Funds are held in our NatWest and CFB bank accounts. These monies are required to fund the running of our Society so enabling our mission work.

Our Policy in ordinary time is to keep a minimum reserve fund equivalent to three months' or 25% of our annual expenditure.

We are currently experiencing severe financial challenges so have exhausted our reserve funds to maintain our local mission. We are currently working through a mission/ sustainability plan, with Circuit support, so will reinstate our reserves in accordance with our Policy as soon as we are able.

**5. Policy for Restricted Funds**

The restricted funds are held in a separate CFB bank account. Such funds were donated for specific purposes, an example of which is a current mission based building project, and they must be used for those purposes only.



The balance needed for these funds is dictated by the specific purpose for which the funds were donated.

**6. Terms relating to Endowment Funds held**

We do not hold any Endowment Funds, so this is not applicable to us.

This Reserves Policy has been approved by

(\*Church Council ☒ / Circuit Meeting ☐ / District ☐)

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Treasurer   | Trustee  |
| Full name   | Full Name  |
| David Crompton  | ROBERT HILTON  |
| Signature   | Signature  |
|  |  |