

ST ANDREW'S LEP, BENTON

England & Wales · Charity number 1205615

Details

Other names	ST ANDREW'S CHURCH (METHODIST & UNITED REFORMED LEP)
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2023-11-07
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	St. Andrews Church Station Road Benton Newcastle Upon Tyne NE12 8AW
Phone	07438 330039
Email	saintandrewsbenton@gmail.com
Website	https://standrewsbenton.org.uk/

Activities

Objects: THE PURPOSE OF THE CHARITY IS TO ADVANCE THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN THE AREA OF BENEFIT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES OF THE PARTICIPATING CHURCHES. IN ACHIEVING ITS PURPOSE, THE CHARITY WILL ENGAGE IN A RANGE OF ACTIVITIES, EITHER ON ITS OWN OR WITH OTHERS, INCLUDING (BUT NOT RESTRICTED TO):A) THE CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC WORSHIP; B) THE TEACHING OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH; C) MISSION AND EVANGELISM; D) PASTORAL WORK, INCLUDING VISITING THE SICK AND THE BEREAVED; E) THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES WITH A CHRISTIAN ETHOS FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, INCLUDING (BUT NOT RESTRICTED TO) THE ELDERLY, THE YOUNG AND OTHER GROUPS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS; AND F) THE SUPPORT OF OTHER CHARITIES IN THE UK AND OVERSEAS.

Activities: The purpose of the Charity is to advance the Christian faith in our local communities in accordance with the principles and practices of the Methodist and United Reformed Churches. The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit and, in particular, the guidelines on charities for the advancement of religion.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Religious Activities, Recreation
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- North Tyneside

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£91,774	£97,567	-	-
2024-08-31	£114,014	£126,996	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Helen White BEd BA	Chair	2024-09-01
Andrew Norman Thomas BSc		2015-01-17
Elizabeth Finlay Fellows		2015-01-17
Gillian Ellen Smith BSc MSc		2015-01-17
Keith Andrew Jones BSc PGCE		2024-07-20
Margaret Joy Burchell BA Dip. Ed		2015-01-17
Moiria Ellen Simpson AHRIM		2015-01-17
Noreen Judith Henderson		2021-07-31
PETER HENRY MARTIN		2021-07-31
Shirley Thomas B. Ed		2015-01-17
Thomas Allen Oliver		2015-01-17

ST ANDREW'S LEP, BENTON

England & Wales - Charity number 1205615

Accounts

ST ANDREW'S LEP, BENTON

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Introduction

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for year ended 31 August 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2015), "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

Charity Name

St Andrew's LEP, Benton.

Charity Number 1205615

Registered by the Charity Commission for England and Wales on 7 November 2023.

Trustees

Rev H White
Mrs M J Burchell
Mrs E F Fellows
Mrs N Henderson
Mr K A Jones – Treasurer
Mr P H Martin
Mr T A Oliver
Miss M E Simpson
Miss G E Smith
Mr A N Thomas - Secretary
Mrs S Thomas

Reference and Administrative details

The church building and registered office is situated at Station Road, Benton, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE12 8AW.

St Andrew's LEP, Benton is a single congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP), created by the merger of Benton Methodist Church and Christ Church United Reformed Church in May 2003.

The charity is also known as St Andrew's Church (Methodist and United Reformed LEP), Benton; and St Andrew's Church, Benton.

Structure, Governance and Management

The model constitution for a single congregational LEP agreed by the Methodist and United Reformed Churches at a national level, in line with the requirements of charity law, has been adopted by St Andrew's Church as its governing document. This was approved by the sponsoring body of North East Churches Acting Together.

St Andrew's LEP, Benton is part of the Newcastle Central and East Methodist Circuit and of the Northern Synod of the United Reformed Church.

Trustees are elected, or re-elected, at the Annual Congregational Meeting and serve for a period of three years. A chair, secretary and treasurer must be elected by the trustees from within their own number. The trustees are required to meet at least twice a year and such meetings fulfil the functions of the Methodist Church Council and the Elders' meeting in the case of the United Reformed Church.

The trustees are responsible for the overall governance of the Charity in accordance with the guidance published by the Charity Commission. The trustees are also legally responsible for the running of the church and must comply with the requirements of the parent denominations covering safeguarding, property management and accounting records.

ST ANDREW'S LEP, BENTON

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Objectives and Activities

The purpose of the Charity is to advance the Christian faith in our local communities in accordance with the principles and practices of the Methodist and United Reformed Churches. The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit and, in particular, the guidelines on charities for the advancement of religion.

To further and achieve its purpose, the Charity will engage in a range of activities, either on its own or with others, including (but not restricted to):

- a) the celebration of public worship;
- b) the teaching of the Christian faith;
- c) mission and evangelism;
- d) pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved;
- e) the provision of facilities with a Christian ethos for the local communities, including (but not restricted to) the elderly, the young and other groups with particular needs; and
- f) the support of other charities in the UK and overseas.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all our volunteers who work so hard to ensure that we can carry on with our activities for the benefit of our members, our adherents and our local communities. We also thank everyone who helps to create an inclusive, warm and friendly environment when we meet together. Working together enables us all to live out our Christian faith in a way that will have a positive impact on the lives of others, as we actively seek to show the unity of the people of Jesus Christ through the way we bring together two Christian traditions.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

We have continued to be blessed with a rich and varied worship experience over this last year with worship leaders provided by the Methodist and URC churches.

Worship at St Andrew's takes place at 10.30 am every Sunday. All-age worship takes place on the first Sunday of each month and Helen has developed an atmosphere where discussion and interaction with the congregation are natural and enhance the Worship. Communion services take place on the third Sunday of each month, and we distribute the elements to the seated congregation during worship.

The length of the services is about one hour and usually includes five hymns. We have been delighted to welcome many new friends to share worship with us. We have been blessed with excellent worship leaders who have each shared their thoughts and experiences. They regularly comment on the warm welcome they receive from our congregation.

In addition to the indoor worship, we are keen to keep alive the uncertainty and excitement of worshipping outside the church on special occasions.

We have organised and taken part in two services designated as 'Own Arrangement' by the Circuit. These services have involved our own members sharing their unique journeys of faith and leading our prayers and have proved to be moving and powerful witness that the congregation is keen to develop in the future.

ST ANDREW'S LEP, BENTON

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Achievements and Performance (continued)

Pastoral Care

Apart from the ongoing work of our minister Helen, the church has a team of eleven volunteer pastoral carers who each take responsibility to help and keep in touch with several of our people on a regular basis. The pastoral carers, Cradle Roll secretary and one Sunday School representative meet with the minister, one vestry steward and the pastoral secretary as a committee at least twice a year to review the pastoral needs and ensure that the close families of all church members, frequent worshippers (adherents) and children in recent contact with the church are included in the care coverage.

There is also a group of church members who seek to pray on a weekly basis for people or situations that would benefit from prayerful interventions. Those involved also share any news that helps to direct the prayers of the group or to direct the prayers of others connected to the church.

Other volunteers deliver flowers each week on behalf of the church when we become aware of someone being unwell or in need of support, and sometimes to celebrate a happy event. Many support each other by offering care in less organised ways, which might involve gifts, cards, food, a phone call or providing transport when needed.

Junior Church

Junior Church has been led by church volunteers with the regular assistance of church members and the occasional support of parents. The number of children attending Junior Church continues to fluctuate and there is a wide age range.

The children who attend Junior Church engage in craft activities and games linked to the Old and New Testaments. At Pentecost we read the passage from the children's bible and thought about different countries and the languages spoken around the world. Given the range of age and abilities it can be difficult to produce resources that are suitable for all children, but everyone enjoyed blowing bubbles, making paper aeroplanes and flying a miniature kite to demonstrate the Holy Spirit moving as the breath of God.

Cradle Roll

Currently we keep in touch with 4 families who have children on the Cradle Roll and 3 families whose children have had infant thanksgiving and blessing services. They all receive the church magazine, and the Cradle Roll secretary visits each home with a card for the child's birthday and a general invitation to quarterly Messy Church or weekly Junior Church until they pass their fifth birthday without any response. The temporary Cradle Roll secretary has unfortunately not been able to do more than that. During the past year our minister Helen officiated at one infant thanksgiving and blessing service, after visiting the families involved to talk about the significance of both baptism and "thanksgiving and blessing" services.

Church Membership and Attendance

At the Pastoral Committee meeting on 11.09.25 the membership numbers were calculated to be 93, variously described as Methodist, United Reformed or joint members (those who entered membership after the LEP was formed). Whilst some of our members are now unable to attend church services, we do enjoy welcoming other regular churchgoers or visitors each week. We are normally blessed to have a congregation of 60-70 attenders at Sunday morning services.

Church Magazine – "Tidings"

We are blessed to have a dedicated editor who puts together a church magazine on 10 occasions each year covering the whole year. The magazine has been a part of church life since the 1950s and is appreciated by many inside and outside the church far and wide. It is an excellent way to communicate news about the church, community and other worthy topics to church members, adherents, and many others in the community or wider afield. The magazine content features a message from the minister, a diary of church activities, church news and looking forward or back at church-related events in the neighbourhood and worldwide. It also covers current events at home or abroad that may be of interest from a Christian or community perspective. 168 copies of the October 2025 magazine were sent out via email, and 65 printed copies were supplied and delivered where needed.

ST ANDREW'S LEP, BENTON

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Achievements and Performance (continued)

Community Outreach

1. Messy Church:

Messy Church takes place once a quarter on a Sunday afternoon from 3pm to 4.30pm. where a wide variety of people, members and non-members, take part in a varied mix of experiments, crafts, and games. Our minister, Helen, then leads a short time of praise involving song, stories and prayer before food and refreshments round off the adventure! The Messy Church planning is part of the agenda of the Outreach group. A theme is identified and then developed by the team members who draw on their individual experiences and talents and lead specific activities.

2. Weekday Fellowship:

This takes place on the first Thursday of every month. Church regulars, often joined by others, meet for inspired and uplifting 'Fellowship and Worship'. Refreshments are provided and the minister normally presides and leads the music, prayers and teaching.

3. 4th Newcastle Girls' Brigade:

The group regularly meet in the church each week, is continuing to grow in number and is run by trained volunteer leaders. This year they have also welcomed a new helper who in time will be encouraged to undertake independent leadership training.

All volunteers love working with the girls and young women and seeing them make new friends, learn new skills, achieve, have fun, and learn more about Jesus week by week. Each age group follows its own appropriate themed programme materials, and its members work towards badges to reward and celebrate their achievements. The programme includes a variety of subjects but there will be a new challenge for leaders this year with a national change in badgework.

Activities include sleepovers, outings, special church services, award nights and camps. The group has just returned from camp where twelve of the girls, along with their leaders, adventured to Hexham on the train for a 3-day 2-night camp which included a tour of Hexham Abbey and creative activities like pottery painting. The girls all got amazing feedback for their attitude and behaviour during the train journeys, and the leaders were very proud of them.

Many more activities are in planning stages for the next academic year.

4. Forest Hall Carpet Bowls Club:

The club meet each week in the church hall where the equipment is stored. The club is open to anyone who wants to play the game, with a good mix of church members and locals from the community – 3 new players have joined this last year. This provides the opportunity to meet others in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere and enjoy some good social contact, fun and competition.

5. Special services:

a) Advent and Christmas:

Church members joined with people from St Bartholomew's parish church and others to sing carols outside the shops at Forest Hall and raise funds for Christian Aid. During the singing, gifts of knitted angels were handed out to the local community. At the 'Carols Around The Tree' event, held outside the shops in West Moor, a large number of children and adults from various denominations and local organisations came along to sing Christmas songs. They were accompanied by a band of musicians and had a visit from Santa; by a collection funds were raised for St. Oswald's Hospice. Almost every chair in the church was occupied for the Christmas Eve afternoon service, and hot drinks and mince pies were offered afterwards. It was good to see friends back specially for Christmas and to welcome people worshipping with us for the first time. On Christmas morning most carols were sung to the organ but two were accompanied by Christmas visitors playing a saxophone and a piano.

ST ANDREW'S LEP, BENTON

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Achievements and Performance (continued)

Community Outreach (continued)

5. Special services (continued):

b) Lent and Easter:

On Maundy Thursday, Holy Communion was led by Rev'd Helen White. After a short service on Good Friday, we joined with members from St. Bartholomew's to process from Benton to Forest Hall where a cross was erected followed by an open-air act of worship. On Easter morning Holy Communion was celebrated and the outdoor cross at St. Andrew's was decorated with flowers.

c) Harvest Festival

Our colourful Harvest Festival had a large display of both fresh produce and tinned groceries. But alongside the 'plentiful harvest' we enjoy, the display also depicted the poverty that others endure. These gifts were delivered to the food bank at 'Walking With' in Wallsend and greatly appreciated as the shelves were almost empty. Financial donations were also sent to the charities All We Can and Commitment for Life

d) Services at Ashfield Court Care Home

After a request from staff and residents, services, led by Rev Susan Richardson, have been held in the care home once a month. These services are well supported by members of the church family who sit among the residents, get to know them and encourage them to take part in the singing. This is a really important part of the church's mission and ministry and the number of residents coming along just keeps on growing, thanks in no small part to Debbie, the activities co-ordinator. We have people there who are Roman Catholic, one lady who went to St Johns' parish church, Killingworth and people who have no specific church background but enjoy the hymns / readings /prayers they learnt at school. Susan writes, "I am so grateful for the lovely folk who turn up month after month to support. Their presence really makes a difference."

6. Local Charitable Causes:

- The 'Gift Service' in December went to Foundation Futures, a local charity which supports struggling families in the Pottery Bank and Byker areas of Newcastle.
- We also support 'Walking With' in North Tyneside' with regular donations of everyday goods and also the items brought to the Harvest festival service. This organisation supports asylum seekers and other refugees who reside in North Tyneside and within our local community.

7. Special Events:

- In January about 40 people participated in the church party, which involved quizzes and team games for all ages and a faith tea.
- In May we hosted an afternoon tea party for guests of Re-Engage, a charity which supports older folk who are socially isolated. We were asked if we could host not only the guests and the volunteer drivers, but also all the volunteers who host a tea party in their own homes throughout the year. The charity organisers were very grateful for our generosity and efforts to make this an extra special tea party event.

8. Coffee Mornings:

Coffee mornings are combined with fundraising. The following Charities have been supported this year:

- PCDC (Practical Compassion for Destitute Children in Palestine) received £306 in November 2024
- Marie Curie received £150 in March 2025
- RNLI (Cullercoats Lifeboat Station) received £410 from the August coffee mornings.

ST ANDREW'S LEP, BENTON

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Achievements and Performance (continued)

External Community Groups

The premises are also used by external groups and some have been carrying out their activities in the church for many years and are well known in the local communities. The activities include children's dancing classes, Tai-chi, Pilates, a singing group, a youth ensemble, an orchestra, and the local WI. These groups provide many benefits to the local community as well as income for the church. Other local families or groups also book space for children's parties or formal meetings from time to time. One church hall is now used as a Polling Station for local and national elections.

The Newcastle Upon Tyne District office of the Methodist Church is also based in the building and provides a quarterly gift towards the church building overheads. The district is comprised of 12 circuits and encompasses the northern part of County Durham, Tyne and Wear, all of Northumberland and part of the Scottish Borders.

Charitable Donations

We support the connexional funds of the Methodist Church in Britain. The money donated supports the funds for Presbyters and Deacons, Property, Mission in Britain, World Mission and Lay Training. Donations also support the funds for URC Stipendiary Ministers, Commitment for Life, All We Can, Action for Children, the Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust, Methodist Homes and housing funds for URC and Methodist retired ministers.

The church supports several other UK charities regularly that operate locally or globally. Some help vulnerable children, young people or families and others seek to relieve poverty or suffering caused by inequality or injustice. Some are supported each year and others are supported when disasters occur and emergency appeals are launched.

This year money was sent to support causes through Action for Children, PCDC, Methodist Homes, Christian Aid and the British Red Cross. Money was also used to support an appeal for the ongoing Gaza crisis.

Church donations are, either made from the church CARE Fund, which represents 2% of all offerings and related Gift Aid, or by special collections during the year. In total we donated £3,935 this year.

Governance and Planning

The Trustees continue to meet three times each year to discuss church business with the focus on governance, compliance, safeguarding, finance, and any significant property issues. The delegated Property and Finance Committee continue to meet at least every two months throughout the year to discuss day to day property matters and finances. Congregational meetings are also held every four months to allow everyone from the congregation an opportunity to discuss church matters at first hand and receive reports from the Trustees or others about the life of the church. The church also extends an open invitation to join the Outreach Group, which meets on a regular basis, to consider how to reach out into the local community and celebrate special events in accordance with our Christian ethos and values.

The Church Building Complex

The building complex covers a large worship area and two large halls on the ground floor, which are all interconnected, with several side rooms and two kitchens. The upper level covers a smaller area with two rooms used as offices and one room set aside for general activities. A dedicated team of volunteers look after the routine maintenance of the building and routine cleaning is done by an outside cleaning firm.

A total of £19,239 was paid out for repairs and maintenance, which included all statutory safety checks required during the year. This was significantly lower than the cost of major repairs last year and is likely to be more in line with future expenditure. See also p7 Financial Review paragraph 4. This included a payment of £2124 for work on the drains that took place during the previous financial year but was paid in October.

ST ANDREW'S LEP, BENTON

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Financial Review

Unfortunately, offerings decreased by approximately 4% in 2024-2025, following the trend of the previous year. Gift Aid continues to provide substantial extra income, and several new people have enabled us to take advantage of this source of income. The figures do not include unclaimed Gift Aid from May onwards.

The offerings and Gift Aid of £62,499 accounted for 70% of church income. Lettings income of £19,827 is close to last year's figure and represents 22% of church income. This equates approximately to the cost of repairs and maintenance. We have benefitted again from decent interest rates providing income of £2,056. Our reliance on these three factors is more obvious this year as significant grants in the previous year skewed the percentages.

Overall, the church had a deficit of £22,240 in 2025 following a deficit of £12,982 in 2024.

Circuit Assessment contributions stayed at £56,000 and accounted for 89% of overall offerings (from 81% in 2024) and 63% of total receipts. We have introduced a new heating control system which cost £4,034 but should go some way to countering the increased energy costs as well as correcting some safety concerns. £1,560 was used to provide the new blinds in the Liddell Hall and again this should be a worthwhile expenditure as it will support events and make Lettings more desirable if screens are being used. These purchases will hopefully conclude the major expenditure incurred in the last couple of years. £2124 was paid out this financial year for work done on the drains in 2023-2024.

Reserves Policy

General Funds

The Trustees aim to hold in reserve sufficient funds to cover six months of projected expenditure; partly as working capital and partly to cover committed expenditure if income is severely disrupted, or to cover unexpected major property repairs. In terms of unrestricted general funds available at the year end, the balance of £54,876 equates to 58% of the expenditure for year ended 31/8/2025. There are no designated funds at the year end.

Restricted Funds

The CARE Fund balance of £450 represents money from donors to support regular giving to specific charities and special collections for disasters or emergencies where the church exercises its discretion to raise funds. The church also supports the fund by transferring 2% of offerings and related Gift Aid to cover connexional giving and other gifts. The money is not held in reserve and will be donated to charitable causes as determined by the church congregation and trustees within the next year. We are currently trialling a 50% 'match funding' policy to utilise the CARE Fund.

The Flower Fund balance of £477 represents money from donors to be spent on flowers for church services. The money is not held in reserve and will be spent as and when required on church flowers within the next year.

The church does not hold any Endowment Funds.

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees by the chair:

Name Reverend Helen White

Signature 

Date 25th September 2025

ST ANDREW'S LEP, BENTON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total 31/08/2025	Total 31/08/2024
RECEIPTS						
Offerings and Tax recovered		62,499	-	30	62,529	68,834
Bank and CFB interest & Investment Income		2,056	-	-	2,056	2,800
Lettings		19,827	-	-	19,827	19,814
Other receipts		4,772	-	2,590	7,362	22,566
Total Receipts	4	89,154	-	2,620	91,774	114,014
PAYMENTS						
Circuit Assessment or Share		56,000	-	-	56,000	56,000
Donations		-	-	3,065	3,065	6,822
Repairs and Maintenance		19,239	-	-	19,239	45,672
Utilities (Insurance, water charges, heat & light)		16,558	-	-	16,558	15,113
Other Payments		2,305	-	400	2,705	3,389
Total Payments	5	94,102	-	3,465	97,567	126,995
NET RECEIPTS / PAYMENTS		- 4,948	- -	845	- 5,793	- 12,981
Balance brought forward 1 September		61,750	-	687	62,436	75,418
Transfers (to CARE Fund)		- 1,085	-	1,085	-	-
Balances carried forward 31 August		55,717	-	926	56,643	62,437

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 AUGUST 2025

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total 31/08/2025	Total 31/08/2024
MONETARY ASSETS					
Barclays Current Account	6,150	-	926	7,076	5,768
Cash in Hand	158	-	-	158	82
Central Finance Board Accounts:					
General Deposit Account	48,568	-	-	48,568	56,587
Building Deposit Account	-	-	-	-	-
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes:					
Model Trust Bequests - Trust 11470	-	-	-	-	-
Total Monetary Assets	54,876	-	926	55,803	62,436
ASSETS FOR CHURCH PURPOSES					
		Land & Buildings		4,506,513	4,375,246
		Contents		204,272	198,322
Total Assets for Church Purposes				4,710,785	4,573,568

There are no other monetary or investment assets to report

Liabilities (External Organisations)	-	-	-	-	1,000
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FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

Balance brought forward 1 September	-	-	-	-	1,000
Donations received for external organisations	-	-	165	165	1,483
Donations passed to external organisations	-	-	165	- 165	2,483
Balance still to be paid at 31 August	-	-	-	-	-

ST ANDREW'S LEP, BENTON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, Section 133 using the receipts and payments basis and in accordance with the Methodist Church guidelines.

2. TRUSTEE PAYMENTS

There were no payments made to or on behalf of the trustees.

3. INVESTMENTS

There are no endowments or investments upon which to report.

4. ANALYSIS OF RECEIPTS

Detailed Receipts	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total 31/08/2025	Total 31/08/2024
Sunday Collections - Loose Cash	1	5,715	-	30	5,745	5,528
Cheques	1	1,695	-	-	1,695	370
Sunday Collections - Envelope Scheme	1	1,445	-	-	1,445	1,780
Bank Standing Orders	1	45,645	-	-	45,645	46,980
Bank Direct Credits	1	1,672	-	-	1,672	2,320
Gift Aid - Tax Recovered	2	6,327	-	-	6,327	11,856
Offerings and Tax Recovered - Totals		62,499	-	30	62,529	68,834
General Fund - CFB Deposit Account		2,056	-	-	2,056	2,312
Building Fund - CFB Deposit Account		-	-	-	-	83
Bequest Fund - TMCP Trust Account		-	-	-	-	405
TMCP & CFB Interest - Totals		2,056	-	-	2,056	2,800
Newcastle Methodist District Office		7,925	-	-	7,925	3,800
Internal Organisations	3	1,765	-	-	1,765	1,990
External Groups	4	14,262	-	-	14,262	14,024
Lettings - Totals		23,952	-	-	23,952	19,814
Grants		-	-	-	-	13,059
Insurance Claims & Refunds		-	-	-	-	2,896
Legacies, Bequests & Gifts		-	-	-	-	1,000
URC Northern Synod		240	-	-	240	140
General Receipts & Donations	5	407	-	368	774	676
Flower Fund Donations		-	-	530	530	598
Special Collections, Donations & Fundraisers		-	-	82	82	1,387
Christian Aid Appeals		-	-	407	407	1,560
Other Charitable Appeals		-	-	1,203	1,203	1,250
Other Receipts - Totals		647	-	2,590	3,236	22,566
Receipts Grand Totals		89,154	-	2,620	91,774	114,014

Notes regarding receipts are:

1. Offerings have stayed close to the level of the previous year when allowing for note 2.
2. Gift Aid claims for May onwards not included due to a problem with transferring details to HMRC.
3. This covers the donations from 4th Newcastle Girls' Brigade and Forest Hall Carpet Bowls Club.
4. The money generated from Lettings is an integral part of maintaining the financial stability of the church.
5. This mainly covers collections donated from special services, such as funerals or baptisms.

ST ANDREW'S LEP, BENTON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

5. ANALYSIS OF PAYMENTS

Detailed Payments	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total 31/08/2025	Total 31/08/2024
Circuit Assessment or Share - Totals		56,000	-	-	56,000	56,000
Methodist & URC Connexional Funds	1	-	-	1,200	1,200	1,133
Methodist & URC Annual Pledges	1	-	-	-	-	200
Action for Children		-	-	405	405	700
All We Can - Methodist Relief and Development		-	-	100	100	300
Commitment for Life - URC Trust		-	-	100	100	300
MHA - Methodist Homes		-	-	290	290	250
Local Charitable Causes	2	-	-	-	-	450
Christian Aid Appeals	3	-	-	800	800	1,800
Disasters Emergency Committee Appeals		-	-	-	-	-
Other National Charitable Appeals	3	-	-	170	170	1,689
Donations - Totals		-	-	3,065	3,065	6,822
Cleaning Contractors		3,626	-	-	3,626	3,456
Garden Maintenance		300	-	-	300	285
Building Complex Repairs & Renewals	4	6,389	-	-	6,389	29,347
Electrical Systems Checks, Repairs & Re	4	1,628	-	-	1,628	3,287
Fire & Lightning Systems Checks & Repa	4	544	-	-	544	1,379
Heating System Checks & Repairs	4	4,334	-	-	4,334	1,220
Lift Insurance, Servicing & Repairs		485	-	-	485	564
Equipment Repairs & Renewals	4	-	-	-	-	3,646
Furnishings Repairs & Renewals	4	1,780	-	-	1,780	2,145
Toilet, Cleaning & Sundry supplies & repairs		153	-	-	153	343
Repairs and Maintenance - Totals		19,239	-	-	19,239	45,672
Insurance		4,117	-	-	4,117	4,539
Gas	5	9,126	-	-	9,126	6,618
Electricity	5	2,952	-	-	2,952	2,719
Water	6	363	-	-	363	1,237
Utilities - Totals		16,558	-	-	16,558	15,113
Bequest Fund - TMCP Administration Charge		-	-	-	-	45
Flower Fund Expenditure		-	-	400	400	407
Copyright Licences		510	-	-	510	483
Website costs		415	-	-	415	313
Telephone & Broadband		98	-	-	98	-
Printing, Postage, Stationery & Hymnbooks		666	-	-	666	920
Preacher, Steward & Organist Fees & Expenses		480	-	-	480	249
Communion supplies		-	-	-	-	64
Outreach (Re-Engage tea, messy/junior church)		86	-	-	86	161
Sundries (gifts, buffets, first aid & prayer books)		50	-	-	50	747
Other Payments - Totals		2,305	-	400	2,705	3,389
Payments Grand Totals		94,102	-	3,465	97,567	126,996

Notes regarding payments are:

1. Includes Methodist & URC funds: Ministers; Mission; Property; Training; LWPT & retired ministers housing
2. Cullercoats RNL (collection in August on next year's accounts). Walking With: non-monetary gifts.
3. Includes appeals for the Middle East crisis, including Gaza.
4. Fewer major works this year. Main costs are for a new heating control system and blinds.
5. New energy contracts will commence in January 2026. Gas prices were significantly increased this year.
6. Water was in credit for much of the year so this is unlikely to reflect future costs.

ST ANDREW'S LEP, BENTON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

6. SUMMARY OF FUND MOVEMENT FOR THE YEAR

	Notes	01/09/2024	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	31/08/2025
Unrestricted						
General Fund	1	61,749	106,154	111,102	- 1,085	55,716
Designated						
		-	-	-	-	-
Restricted						
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
CARE Fund	2	340	2,090	3,065	1,085	450
Flower Fund		346	530	400	-	477
		-	-	-	-	-
Totals		62,436	108,774	114,567	-	56,643

Notes regarding funds and fund movement are:

1. Unrestricted funds may be used by the church trustees for any ordinary church purpose.
2. The CARE Fund represents money from donors to support regular giving to specific charities and special collections for disasters or emergencies where the church exercises its discretion to raise funds. The church supports the fund by transferring 2% of unrestricted offerings and related Gift Aid to the fund. CARE Fund will 'match fund' collections for Charities at a level of 50%.

7. SUMMARY OF INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTING TO THE TRUSTEES

The gross income of the church, including the receipts below, does not exceed the Accruals threshold.

The funds below are Restricted.

	01/09/2024	Receipts	Payments	Adjustment	31/08/2025
Forest Hall Carpet Bowls Club	337	1,600	1,557	-	380
4th Newcastle Girls' Brigade	4,482	4,443	4,748	-	4,177
Totals	4,819	6,043	6,305	-	4,557

8. MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

For information only. Money not included in receipts and payments account - held in Barclays current account

	01/09/2024	Receipts	Payments	31/08/2025
Action for Children	-	405	405	-
PCDC	-	350	350	-
Methodist Homes	-	290	290	-
Christian Aid	-	800	800	-
British Red Cross	-	520	520	-
RNLI Cullercoats Station	1	410	410	-
Totals	-	2,775	2,775	-

1. Money collected in August coffee mornings - will show in 2025-2026 accounts
 There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

ST ANDREW'S LEP, BENTON

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

DECLARATIONS

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2025 (pages 8 to 11) have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.

Keith Jones – Treasurer

Signed  Date **25/09/2025**

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 were presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 25 September 2025 and were approved by the trustees.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees by the chair, Rev Helen White



Date **25/09/2025**

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity St Andrew's LEP, Benton ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 August 2025 set out in pages 8 to 11.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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.

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.

Signed  Date **23/10/2025**
Independent Examiner

Name: Keith Gilfillan

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): Justice of the Peace

Address: 75 Newlands Avenue, Melton Park, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne. NE3 5PY

ST ANDREW'S LEP, BENTON

England & Wales - Charity number 1205615

Accounts

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH
(registered as St Andrew's LEP, Benton - Charity Number 1205615)

METHODIST AND UNITED REFORMED

LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

BENTON, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

<u>Contents:</u>	<u>Pages:</u>
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Notes to the Financial Statements	9 to 11
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ST ANDREW'S LEP, BENTON

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Introduction

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for year ended 31 August 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2015), "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

Charity Name

St Andrew's LEP, Benton.

Charity Number 1205615

Registered by the Charity Commission for England and Wales on 7 November 2023.

Trustees

Rev H White – Chair (appointed 1 September 2024)

Rev G Hume – Chair (resigned 31 August 2024)

Mrs M J Burchell

Mrs E F Fellows

Mrs N Henderson

Mr K A Jones (appointed 20 July 2024)

Mr P H Martin

Mr T A Oliver

Miss M E Simpson

Miss G E Smith

Mr A N Thomas - Secretary

Mrs S Thomas

Mr R Ward – Treasurer

Reference and Administrative details

The church building and registered office is situated at Station Road, Benton, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE12 8AW.

St Andrew's LEP, Benton is a single congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP), created by the merger of Benton Methodist Church and Christ Church United Reformed Church in May 2003.

The charity is also known as St Andrew's Church (Methodist and United Reformed LEP), Benton; and St Andrew's Church, Benton.

Structure, Governance and Management

The model constitution for a single congregational LEP agreed by the Methodist and United Reformed Churches at a national level, in line with the requirements of charity law, has been adopted by St Andrew's Church as its governing document. This was approved by the sponsoring body of North East Churches Acting Together.

St Andrew's LEP, Benton is part of the Newcastle Central and East Methodist Circuit and of the Northern Synod of the United Reformed Church.

Trustees are elected, or re-elected, at the Annual Congregational Meeting and serve for a period of three years. A chair, secretary and treasurer must be elected by the trustees from within their own number. The trustees are required to meet at least twice a year and such meetings fulfil the functions of the Methodist Church Council and the Elders' meeting in the case of the United Reformed Church.

The trustees are responsible for the overall governance of the Charity in accordance with the guidance published by the Charity Commission. The trustees are also legally responsible for the running of the church and must comply with the requirements of the parent denominations covering safeguarding, property management and accounting records.

ST ANDREW'S LEP, BENTON

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Objectives and Activities

The purpose of the Charity is to advance the Christian faith in our local communities in accordance with the principles and practices of the Methodist and United Reformed Churches. The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit and, in particular, the guidelines on charities for the advancement of religion.

To further and achieve its purpose, the Charity will engage in a range of activities, either on its own or with others, including (but not restricted to):

- a) the celebration of public worship;
- b) the teaching of the Christian faith;
- c) mission and evangelism;
- d) pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved;
- e) the provision of facilities with a Christian ethos for the local communities, including (but not restricted to) the elderly, the young and other groups with particular needs; and
- f) the support of other charities in the UK and overseas.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all our volunteers who work so hard to ensure that we can carry on with our activities for the benefit of our members, our adherents and our local communities. We also thank everyone who helps to create an inclusive, warm and friendly environment when we meet together. Working together enables us all to live out our Christian faith in a way that will have a positive impact on the lives of others, as we actively seek to show the unity of the people of Jesus Christ through the way we bring together two Christian traditions.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

We have continued to be blessed with a rich and varied worship experience over this last year with worship leaders provided by the Methodist and URC churches.

Worship at St Andrew's takes place at 10.30 am every Sunday. As Covid restrictions have now been completely lifted, the routines have returned to normal except that the offertory is still collected in a plate beside the door. In communion services we distribute the elements to the seated congregation during worship. The length of the services is about one hour and usually includes five hymns. We have been delighted to welcome many new friends to share worship with us. We have been blessed with excellent worship leaders who have each shared their thoughts and experiences. They regularly comment on the warm welcome they receive from our congregation.

In addition to the indoor worship, we have been keen to keep alive the uncertainty and excitement of worshipping outside the church on special occasions.

Gavin has continued to present first rate worship online. This takes the form of live streamed worship from St Andrew's on a regular basis. This innovation, introduced in response to the Covid restrictions, has given us a powerful and very convenient way of sharing God's word and the broadcasts have reached many who would not have otherwise been able to feel a part of our family. Gavin has also led worship at the end of our Messy Church sessions which has delighted all those who attend, both young and old.

Gavin's leaving service in July was both memorable and very well attended. After worship we shared refreshments and Gavin was presented with a cheque and a book of photographs to remind him of the folk at St Andrew's. This was followed up by a Circuit service in the evening for those ministers and deacons who are leaving.

ST ANDREW'S LEP, BENTON

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Achievements and Performance (continued)

Pastoral Care

Apart from the ongoing work of our former minister Gavin, the church has a team of volunteer pastoral carers who each take responsibility to help and keep in touch with a number of our people on a regular basis. The pastoral team meet at least twice a year to review the pastoral needs and ensure that everyone is included in the care coverage.

A group of church attenders also seek to pray on a weekly basis for people or situations that would benefit from prayerful interventions. Those involved also share any news that helps to direct the prayers of the group or to direct the prayers of others connected to the church.

Other volunteers deliver flowers each week when we become aware of someone being unwell or in need of support and sometimes to celebrate a happy event. Many support each other in different ways by offering care in less organised ways, which might involve giving gifts, cards, food, a phone call or by providing transport when needed.

Junior Church

Junior Church has been led by two dedicated church volunteers with the regular assistance of one enthusiastic church member and the occasional support of parents. The number of children attending Junior Church continues to fluctuate and there is a wide age range.

This year Junior Church has considered both the Old and New Testaments. The children enjoyed the story of Moses and the Ten Commandments, which included a song with actions based on the commandments. The children shared the song with the congregation, encouraging everyone to join in. One week the children considered Ephesians 6:10-18 so at the end of the service they joined the congregation to display the armour of God that they had created.

The children have also been actively involved in helping and supporting our wider community by donating a can of food for every day in Lent, which, together with their donations for Harvest Sunday, were supplied to a local food bank that supports local asylum seekers and refugees.

Links with the cradle roll and junior church families have been maintained during school holidays by the delivery of age relevant bible based activity packs, greetings cards and seasonal treats.

Cradle Roll

Currently we have 8 families who have children on the cradle roll with whom we keep in touch. They all receive the church magazine and the children receive birthday, Easter, and Christmas cards. During the year our minister Gavin officiated at two infant baptisms and two infant blessing and thanksgiving services, after visiting the families involved to talk about the significance of the services. Our cradle roll secretary encourages the families and children to attend relevant church services or events that will help them on their Christian journey.

Church Membership and Attendance

At the end of the year the membership numbers were calculated to be 107, variously described as Methodist, United Reformed or joint members (those who entered membership after the LEP was formed). Whilst some of our members are now unable to attend church services, we do enjoy welcoming other regular churchgoers or visitors each week. We are normally blessed to have a full congregation of over 70 attenders at Sunday morning services.

Church Magazine – "Tidings"

We are blessed to have a dedicated editor who puts together a church magazine on 10 occasions each year covering the whole year. The magazine has been a part of church life for many decades and is appreciated by many inside and outside the church far and wide. It is an excellent way to communicate news about the church, community and other worthy topics to church members, adherents, and many others in the community or wider afield. The magazine content features a message from the minister, a diary of church activities, church news and looking forward or back at church related events. It also covers current events at home or abroad that may be of interest from a Christian or community perspective. Many now receive the magazine via email, and printed copies are supplied and delivered where needed.

ST ANDREW'S LEP, BENTON

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Achievements and Performance (continued)

Community Outreach

1. Messy Church:

These carefully planned meetings reach out beyond our regular attendees and take place every couple of months. At each meeting a wide variety of people, members and non-members, take part in a varied mix of experiments, crafts, and games. The minister then leads a short time of praise before food and refreshments round off the adventure!

2. Weekday Fellowship:

This takes place on the first Thursday of every month. Church regulars, often joined by others, meet for inspired and uplifting 'Fellowship and Worship'. Refreshments are provided and the minister normally presides and leads the music, prayers and teaching.

3. 4th Newcastle Girls' Brigade:

The group regularly meet in the church each week, is growing in number and is run by trained volunteer leaders who love working with girls and young women and seeing them make new friends, learn new skills, achieve, have fun, and learn more about Jesus week by week. Each age group follows their own appropriate themed programme materials. All girls and young women work towards badges to reward and celebrate their achievements. The programme is quite varied and includes drama, dancing, faith, exploration, and competitions. Activities include sleepovers, outings, special church services, barbecues, award nights and camps. The group has taken part in a Sunday service which included leading the singing and sharing a video podcast of what being brave means to them as women. They all got amazing feedback for their attitude and behaviour during the service and the leaders were very proud of them.

4. Forest Hall Carpet Bowls Club:

The club meet each week in the church hall where the equipment is stored. The club is open to anyone who wants to play the game, with a good mix of church members and locals from the community. This provides the opportunity to meet others in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere and enjoy some good social contact, fun and competition.

5. Special services:

a) Advent and Christmas:

The church joined with others to sing carols outside the shops at Forest Hall. Donations of £100 were collected for Christian Aid. Christmas knitted angels were also handed out during the singing. At the 'Carols Around the Tree' event at West Moor a large number of children and adults from many denominations and organisations came along to sing Christmas songs. We were accompanied by a band of musicians and the team included the compere, sound technician, road safety team and, of course, Santa. A collection was taken to be used for the benefit of local children.

The Sunday morning service on Christmas Eve was led by Rev. Susan Richardson who wove carols chosen by the congregation into a Christmas story sermon. The Nativity Service in the afternoon was led by our minister Gavin with carols accompanied by a visiting brass band. The Girls' Brigade sang for us while interpreting the words in Makaton, a language of gestures which some people with speech problems find helpful.

b) Lent and Easter:

A Communion service on Maundy Thursday was led by the Rev. Susan Richardson. After a short service on Good Friday, we joined other local churches in a procession to the local shops at Forest Hall. Others joined us as the Rev. Ben Jarvis led worship. On Easter morning the Rev. David Wilkinson led the service during which he ate a bacon sandwich which he claimed that, just like the resurrection message, your friends won't believe this even though you witnessed it. Everyone was encouraged to "Go, Tell, Trust!" Children took part in an egg hunt and the cross was decorated with daffodils.

ST ANDREW'S LEP, BENTON

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Achievements and Performance (continued)

Community Outreach (continued)

5. Special services (continued):

c) Harvest Festival:

Our Harvest Festival in September featured a display of harvest produce on a stall erected to resemble a market stall which was later taken to Wallsend for 'Walking With'. We also donated £300 to Commitment for Life and All We Can from our harvest donations plus contributions from the CARE Fund.

d) Services at Ashfield Court Care Home:

After a request from staff and residents several services, led by Rev. Susan Richardson, have been held at the care home. Visitors sit among the residents, get to know them and encourage them to take part in the singing.

6. Local Charitable Causes:

- The 'Gift Service' in December went to the Cedarwood Trust who support struggling families in Meadow Well, North Shields.
- We also support 'Walking With' in North Tyneside' with donations to support asylum seekers or refugees who reside in North Tyneside and within our local community.
- We continued to support an Iranian family seeking asylum in the UK who have been granted refugee status and moved to Sheffield. The family expressed their gratitude in an open letter to the church. "We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped us during our 8 months' temporary stay in Palmersville. By the time you are reading this message we will hopefully be in Sheffield, where we have friends, and will have access to an Iranian Christian community. There were constant difficulties and problems to overcome. Thank you to those who helped us with shopping and financial support, with transport to appointments in places we did not know, with understanding of lengthy Home Office letters. Thank you for the donated laptops so we could study, and especially to the kind teachers who helped with provision of books and had patience to help us learn for GCSE English and Maths. Thank you for those who gave us useful household items and floor rugs. Thank you for our visit to the Quayside, and to Whitley Bay to enjoy ice creams. Thank you for bringing us strawberries fresh from the garden. We were very grateful for donated suitcases with wheels, making our onward journey so much easier. And, of course, special thanks to Gavin, who provided us with bicycles which made travelling to St. Andrew's each week so much quicker! Most of all, we thank you for your friendship and making us so welcome."

7. Special Events:

- In November Gavin performed his latest songs, available on CD, and showed a film about a Malawian organisation called Eagles which helps farming communities to take charge of their own development. From the sale of CDs Gavin was able to send £400 to All We Can, which supports Eagles and similar enterprises.
- In January about 40 people participated in the church party, which involved quizzes and team games for all ages and a faith tea.
- In May we hosted an afternoon tea party for guests of Re-Engage, a charity which supports older folk who are socially isolated. We were asked if we could host not only the guests and the volunteer drivers, but also all the volunteers who host a tea party in their own homes throughout the year. The charity organisers were very grateful for our generosity and efforts to make this an extra special tea party event.
- In June all ages enjoyed a picnic. Some sat and chatted with Gavin. Some played games organised by Girls Brigade leaders.
- Those who joined our litter pick in July also enjoyed the cake and drinks afterwards!

8. Coffee Mornings:

- In September donations and the cake stall raised £303 for Macmillan Cancer Support.
- In December we raised £310 for Centrepoin, the UK's leading youth homelessness charity.
- In April a total of £325 went to the Multiple Sclerosis Research and Relief Fund which is based at Morpeth.
- In August, coffee and biscuits were served in the foyer each Saturday. On the first Saturday, designated as a "talents and hobbies" coffee morning, some brought items to illustrate their talents or hobbies. We raised £100 for a special appeal by Action for Children for children who are taken into care.

ST ANDREW'S LEP, BENTON

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Achievements and Performance (continued)

External Community Groups

The premises are also used by external groups and some have been carrying out their activities in the church for many years and are well known in the local communities. The activities include children's dancing classes, Tai-chi, Pilates, a singing group, a youth ensemble, an orchestra, and the local WI. These groups provide many benefits to the local community as well as income for the church. Other local families or groups also book space for children's parties or formal meetings from time to time. One church hall is now used as a Polling Station for local and national elections.

The Newcastle Upon Tyne District office of the Methodist Church is also based in the building and provides a quarterly gift towards the church building overheads. The district is comprised of 12 circuits and encompasses the northern part of County Durham, Tyne and Wear, all of Northumberland and part of the Scottish Borders.

Charitable Donations

We support the connexional funds of the Methodist Church in Britain. The money donated supports the funds for Presbyters and Deacons, Property, Mission in Britain, World Mission and Lay Training. Donations also support the funds for URC Stipendiary Ministers, Commitment for Life, All We Can, Action for Children, the Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust, Methodist Homes and housing funds for URC and Methodist retired ministers.

The church supports several other UK charities regularly that operate locally or globally. Some help vulnerable children, young people or families and others seek to relieve poverty or suffering caused by inequality or injustice. Some are supported each year and others are supported when disasters occur and emergency appeals are launched.

This year money was sent to support local causes through the Cedarwood Trust, the Newcastle West End Foodbank and Walking With in North Tyneside. Money was also used to support appeals for the Middle East crisis, Gaza, the Libya floods and the Morocco earthquake.

Church donations are, either made from the church CARE Fund, which represents 2% of all offerings and related Gift Aid, or by special collections during the year. In total we donated £8,305 this year. More details are provided in the notes to the financial statements, note 5 under Donations and note 10 regarding External Organisations.

Governance and Planning

The Trustees continue to meet three times each year to discuss church business with the focus on governance, compliance, safeguarding, finance, and any significant property issues. The delegated Property and Finance Committee continue to meet at least every two months throughout the year to discuss day to day property matters and finances. Congregational meetings are also held every four months to allow everyone from the congregation an opportunity to discuss church matters at first hand and receive reports from the Trustees or others about the life of the church. The church also extends an open invitation to join the Outreach Group, which meets on a regular basis, to consider how to reach out into the local community and celebrate special events in accordance with our Christian ethos and values.

The Church Building Complex

The building complex covers a large worship area and two large halls on the ground floor, which are all interconnected, with several side rooms and two kitchens. The upper level covers a smaller area with two rooms used as offices and one room set aside for general activities. A dedicated team of volunteers look after the routine maintenance of the building and routine cleaning is done by an outside cleaning firm.

A total of £45,672 was paid out for repairs and maintenance, which included all statutory safety checks required during the year. The expenditure is detailed in note 5 of the notes to the financial statements. The Bequest, Building and Legacy funds were utilised together with two grants to cover most of the significant one-off costs. This included replacing or repairing windows to make the building complex more energy efficient and eco-friendly. It also covered major remedial work inside and outside the building. We were also able to improve the ambience of the church and the worship experience for the congregation through the purchase of much needed new equipment and furnishings.

ST ANDREW'S LEP, BENTON

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Financial Review

The main headline is that our offerings decreased by 2.5% in 2024, after the sad loss of some faithful supporters, compared to a significant increase of 11% in the previous year. Gift Aid continues to provide substantial extra income.

The offerings and Gift Aid of £68,834 accounted for 60% of church income. Lettings income of £19,814 remains healthy and represents 17% of church income. We have benefitted from the increase in deposit interest rates providing income of £2,312. Other receipts totalling £17,771 includes two grants for £13,059 which were provided towards the costs of replacing or repairing windows to make the building more energy efficient and eco-friendly.

Overall, the church had a deficit of £12,982 in 2024 compared to a surplus of £13,887 in 2023. Total receipts of £114,014 in 2024 were inflated by the grants of £13,059 compared to total receipts of £96,410 in 2023. Similarly, total payments of £126,996 reflect the significant one-off costs of £38,736 incurred in 2024, compared to total payments of £82,523 in 2023.

Circuit Assessment contributions increased to £56,000 and accounted for 81% of overall offerings and 49% of total receipts. The trustees decided to use the money in the Bequest, Building and Legacy funds, totalling £34,082, towards any expenditure that was not covered by the grants, as detailed in note 5 of the notes to the financial statements. This was a very effective and relevant way to use these funds in a year of exceptional expenditure; involving remedial work to rectify serious damp or drainage problems, upgrading emergency lighting and the installation of new windows, new blinds and TV monitors. Church ambience and the worship experience in the chapel has also been greatly improved.

Reserves Policy

General Funds

The Trustees aim to hold in reserve sufficient funds to cover six months of projected expenditure; partly as working capital and partly to cover committed expenditure if income is severely disrupted, or to cover unexpected major property repairs. In terms of unrestricted general funds available at the year end, the balance of £61,749 equates to about half of the significant expenditure for year ended 31/8/2024. There are no designated funds at the year end.

Restricted Funds

The CARE Fund balance of £340 represents money from donors to support regular giving to specific charities and special collections for disasters or emergencies where the church exercises its discretion to raise funds. The church also supports the fund by transferring 2% of offerings and related Gift Aid to cover connexional giving and other gifts. The money is not held in reserve and will be donated to charitable causes as determined by the church congregation and trustees within the next year.

The Flower Fund balance of £347 represents money from donors to be spent on flowers for church services. The money is not held in reserve and will be spent as and when required on church flowers within the next year.

The church does not hold any Endowment Funds.

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees by the chair:

Name Reverend Helen White

Signature *H White*

Date *16th October 2024*

ST ANDREW'S LEP, BENTON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total 31/08/2024	Total 31/08/2023
RECEIPTS						
Offerings and Tax recovered		68,834	-	-	68,834	74,332
Bank and CFB interest & Investment Income		2,312	-	488	2,800	1,794
Lettings		19,814	-	-	19,814	15,873
Other receipts		10,445	-	12,121	22,566	4,411
Total Receipts	4	101,405	-	12,609	114,014	96,410
PAYMENTS						
Circuit Assessment or Share		56,000	-	-	56,000	50,000
Donations		-	-	6,822	6,822	2,289
Repairs and Maintenance		4,264	9,657	31,751	45,672	16,385
Utilities (Insurance, water charges, heat & light)		15,113	-	-	15,113	10,729
Other Payments		2,937	-	452	3,389	3,120
Total Payments	5	78,314	9,657	39,025	126,996	82,523
NET RECEIPTS / PAYMENTS		23,091	-	9,657	26,416	12,982
					12,982	13,887
Balance brought forward 1 September		40,035	9,657	25,726	75,418	61,531
Transfers (to CARE Fund)	-	1,377	-	1,377	-	-
Balances carried forward 31 August		61,749	-	687	62,436	75,418

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 AUGUST 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total 31/08/2024	Total 31/08/2023
MONETARY ASSETS					
Barclays Current Account	5,081	-	687	5,768	6,928
Cash in Hand	82	-	-	82	101
Central Finance Board Accounts:					
General Deposit Account	56,586	-	-	56,586	44,407
Building Deposit Account	-	-	-	-	7,999
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes:					
Model Trust Bequests - Trust 11470	-	-	-	-	15,983
Total Monetary Assets	61,749	-	687	62,436	75,418
ASSETS FOR CHURCH PURPOSES					
			Land & Buildings	4,375,246	4,268,567
			Contents	198,322	193,486
Total Assets for Church Purposes				4,573,568	4,462,053
<i>There are no other monetary or investment assets to report</i>					
Liabilities (External Organisations)	-	-	-	-	1,000

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

Balance brought forward 1 September	-	-	1,000	1,000	-
Donations received for external organisations	-	-	1,483	1,483	6,067
Donations passed to external organisations	-	-	2,483	2,483	5,067
Balance still to be paid at 31 August	-	-	-	-	1,000

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

ST ANDREW'S LEP, BENTON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, Section 133 using the receipts and payments basis and in accordance with the Methodist Church guidelines.

2. TRUSTEE PAYMENTS

There were no payments made to or on behalf of the trustees.

3. INVESTMENTS

There are no endowments or investments upon which to report.

4. ANALYSIS OF RECEIPTS

Detailed Receipts	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total 31/08/2024	Total 31/08/2023
Sunday Collections - Loose Cash	1	5,528	-	-	5,528	5,769
Sunday Collections - Cheques	1	370	-	-	370	600
Sunday Collections - Envelope Scheme	1	1,780	-	-	1,780	1,015
Bank Standing Orders	1	46,980	-	-	46,980	48,402
Cheques By Post	1	2,320	-	-	2,320	2,660
Gift Aid - Tax Recovered	2	11,856	-	-	11,856	15,886
Offerings and Tax Recovered - Totals		68,834	-	-	68,834	74,332
General Fund - CFB Deposit Account		2,312	-	-	2,312	1,027
Building Fund - CFB Deposit Account		-	-	83	83	269
Bequest Fund - TMCP Trust Account		-	-	405	405	498
TMCP & CFB Interest - Totals		2,312	-	488	2,800	1,794
Newcastle Methodist District Office		3,800	-	-	3,800	3,500
Internal Organisations	3	1,990	-	-	1,990	1,890
External Groups	4	14,024	-	-	14,024	10,483
Lettings - Totals		19,814	-	-	19,814	15,873
Grants	5	5,733	-	7,326	13,059	-
Insurance Claims & Refunds	6	2,896	-	-	2,896	269
Legacies, Bequests & Gifts		1,000	-	-	1,000	-
URC Northern Synod		140	-	-	140	429
General Receipts & Donations	7	676	-	-	676	1,156
Flower Fund Donations		-	-	598	598	635
Special Collections, Donations & Fundraisers		-	-	1,387	1,387	1,922
Christian Aid Appeals		-	-	1,560	1,560	-
Other Charitable Appeals		-	-	1,250	1,250	-
Other Receipts - Totals		10,445	-	12,121	22,566	4,411
Receipts Grand Totals		101,405	-	12,609	114,014	96,410

Notes regarding receipts are:

1. Offerings have decreased by 2.5% compared to a significant increase of 11% in the previous year.
2. Gift Aid claims are up to date. 2024 was lower than 2023 because of claims from 2022 paid in 2023 (circa £4k).
3. This covers the donations from 4th Newcastle Girls' Brigade and Forest Hall Carpet Bowls Club.
4. Extra money was generated from one-off rentals and regular user group rents that increased this year.
5. Circuit provided £5,733 retrospectively to reimburse general funds paid out in 2023 on Community Hall windows. The Northumbria Historic Churches Trust grant of £7,326 was towards the cost of stained glass window repairs.
6. Several claims were made covering water flood damage and accidental damages to church car park walls.
7. This mainly covers collections donated from special services, such as funerals or baptisms.

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

ST ANDREW'S LEP, BENTON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

5. ANALYSIS OF PAYMENTS

Detailed Payments	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total 31/08/2024	Total 31/08/2023
Circuit Assessment or Share - Totals		56,000	-	-	56,000	50,000
Methodist & URC Connexional Funds	1	-	-	1,133	1,133	1,089
Methodist & URC Annual Pledges	1	-	-	200	200	200
Action for Children		-	-	700	700	125
All We Can - Methodist Relief and Development		-	-	300	300	200
Commitment for Life - URC Trust		-	-	300	300	200
MHA - Methodist Homes		-	-	250	250	125
Local Charitable Causes	2	-	-	450	450	-
Christian Aid Appeals	3	-	-	1,800	1,800	-
Disasters Emergency Committee Appeals		-	-	-	-	350
Other National Charitable Appeals	3	-	-	1,689	1,689	-
Donations - Totals		-	-	6,822	6,822	2,289
Cleaning Contractors		3,456	-	-	3,456	3,432
Garden Maintenance		285	-	-	285	245
Building Complex Repairs & Renewals	4	-	5,837	23,510	29,347	8,323
Electrical Systems Checks, Repairs & Ren	4	-	910	2,377	3,287	903
Fire & Lightning Systems Checks & Repair	4	-	437	942	1,379	386
Heating System Checks & Repairs	4	180	672	368	1,220	989
Lift Insurance, Servicing & Repairs		-	564	-	564	468
Equipment Repairs & Renewals	4	-	1,237	2,409	3,646	979
Furnishings Repairs & Renewals	4	-	-	2,145	2,145	450
Toilet, Cleaning & Sundry supplies & repairs		343	-	-	343	210
Repairs and Maintenance - Totals		4,264	9,657	31,751	45,672	16,385
Insurance		4,539	-	-	4,539	4,429
Gas	5	6,618	-	-	6,618	3,907
Electricity	5	2,719	-	-	2,719	1,686
Water		1,237	-	-	1,237	707
Utilities - Totals		15,113	-	-	15,113	10,729
Bequest Fund - TMCP Administration Charge		-	-	45	45	44
Flower Fund Expenditure		-	-	407	407	561
Copyright Licences		483	-	-	483	630
Website costs		313	-	-	313	295
Telephone & Broadband		-	-	-	-	136
Printing, Postage, Stationery & Hymnbooks		920	-	-	920	465
Preacher, Steward & Organist Fees & Expenses		249	-	-	249	468
Communion supplies		64	-	-	64	138
Outreach (Re-Engage tea, messy/junior church)		161	-	-	161	84
Sundries (gifts, buffets, first aid & prayer books)		747	-	-	747	299
Other Payments - Totals		2,937	-	452	3,389	3,120
Payments Grand Totals		78,314	9,657	39,025	126,996	82,523

Notes regarding payments are:

1. Includes Methodist & URC funds for Ministers, Mission, Property, Training, LWPT & retired ministers housing.
2. Includes the Cedarwood Trust, Newcastle West End Foodbank & Walking With in North Tyneside.
3. Includes appeals for the Middle East crisis, Gaza, the Libya floods and the Morocco earthquake.
4. Includes replacing or repairing windows, safety repairs, damp remedial work, blinds, chapel TVs & laptop.
5. New energy contracts commenced in January 2024 with increased costs, after three years on very low rates.

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

ST ANDREW'S LEP, BENTON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

6. SUMMARY OF FUND MOVEMENT FOR THE YEAR

	Notes	01/09/2023	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	31/08/2024
Unrestricted						
General Fund	1	40,035	101,405	78,314 -	1,377	61,749
Designated						
Legacy Fund	2	9,657	-	9,657	-	-
Restricted						
Bequest Fund	3	15,983	405	16,388	-	-
Building Fund	3	7,999	83	8,082	-	-
CARE Fund	4	1,588	4,197	6,822	1,377	340
Flower Fund		156	598	407	-	347
Northumbria Historic Churches Trust	5	-	7,326	7,326	-	-
Totals		75,418	114,014	126,996	-	62,436

Notes regarding funds and fund movement are:

1. Unrestricted funds may be used by the church trustees for any ordinary church purpose.
2. The Legacy Fund represented money from bequest or legacy donations that were unrestricted. The fund was used this year to help cover building costs, as shown in the detailed analysis of payments.
3. The restricted Bequest and Building funds were utilised to meet significant one-off costs, as shown in the detailed analysis of payments, in accord with the terms of the bequest and building fund stipulations.
4. The CARE Fund represents money from donors to support regular giving to specific charities and special collections for disasters or emergencies where the church exercises its discretion to raise funds. The church supports the fund by transferring 2% of unrestricted offerings and related Gift Aid to the fund.
5. The grant was towards the cost of stained glass window repairs in the Chapel and was paid out immediately.

7. SUMMARY OF INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTING TO THE TRUSTEES

*The gross income of the church, including the receipts below, does not exceed the Accruals threshold.
The funds below are Restricted.*

	01/09/2023	Receipts	Payments	Adjustment	31/08/2024
Forest Hall Carpet Bowls Club	540	1,500	1,703	-	337
4th Newcastle Girls' Brigade	4,962	2,054	2,489 -	45	4,482
Totals	5,502	3,554	4,192 -	45	4,819

8. MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

For information only. Money not included in receipts and payments account - held in Barclays current account

	01/09/2023	Receipts	Payments	31/08/2024
Action for Children	-	295	295	-
Asylum Seekers	1,000	-	1,000	-
Centrepont	-	310	310	-
Christian Aid	-	250	250	-
Macmillan Cancer Support	-	303	303	-
MS Research and Relief Fund	-	325	325	-
Totals	-	1,483	2,483	-

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

ST ANDREW'S LEP, BENTON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

DECLARATIONS

I confirm that the financial statements on pages 8 to 11 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.

Richard Ward - Treasurer - Signed  Date 16/10/2024

The trustees approved the financial statements on 16 October 2024.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees by the chair, Reverend Helen White

Signed  Date 16/10/2024

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity St Andrew's LEP, Benton ("the Trust") for the year ended for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages 8 to 11.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (~~other than that disclosed below~~) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- 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 order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed  Date 11/1/2025

Name: Emma Louise Gourley

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): ACCA

