

The **Methodist** Church 

COLCHESTER METHODIST CIRCUIT

**THE WELL METHODIST CHURCH
NAYLAND ROAD, COLCHESTER CO4 5ET**

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



Charity registration number – 1208592

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The governing document for The Well Methodist Church is the Deed of Union (1932) and the Methodist Church Act (1976). The objects are in line with those for the overall Methodist Church. Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD).

Day to day management of the Church is undertaken by the Stewards in conjunction with the minister who work under the direction of the Church Council. All Methodist members of the Well Methodist Church are eligible to be Trustees and are invited to do so, should they wish. The Church Council is appointed annually.

The Church has a Mission Plan which forms the basis of the strategic activities and objectives.

RELATED PARTIES

The Church is part of the Colchester Methodist Circuit which, in turn, is part of the Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

SAFEGUARDING

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

The Well Methodist Church annually adopts a Safeguarding Policy which is line with Connexional Policy. Safeguarding is a standing agenda item at every Church Council.

The Church does not hold any funds as a custodian trustee.

ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE INCLUDING REPORT ON ITS PUBLIC BENEFIT

STEWARDS REPORT

The angels, which were crafted last year to give away along with invitations to our Carol Service, were so lovely and received both local and international renown. We hope this year's stars are as effective!

We really missed Rev Chris whilst she was on 3 months Sabbatical, but were so pleased to hear the time had been beneficial for her.

Two items of note within our Circuit this last year were the Ordination of Rev Hannah Chun and the appointment of Jastine Diaz as our Anna Chaplain – a new and exciting role which we look forward to seeing develop as God leads him. It is good to be able to join with our Circuit friends both through Zoom (Sunday services and Bible Study) and at social events.

Our plans to modernise our premises are making steady progress, and we thank the Project team, our architect, Mark Cleveland and especially Rev Chris for all their hard work. A 'preliminary enquiry application' of our building plans was submitted to Colchester City Council. We received their feedback, and, though the scheme was viewed positively in most

areas, there was a desire for some of the Victorian features to remain at the front of the building. Our architect has taken the comments on board, and we now pray that Colchester City Council will catch a glimpse of our vision and look kindly on our submission when it is sent to them for full planning permission.

It is obvious to us all that it is becoming increasingly difficult to fill our Preaching Plan and we need to think seriously about how we can cope in the future. Can we continue to hold a weekly Sunday Service at The Well, or should we be thinking about other ways of worship? If so, what?

As Stewards, our gratitude goes to those who ensure that our regular work and witness continue smoothly. Our premises are well used by activities, such as our Prayer Meeting, Warm Welcome, Community Pantry and Community Coffee Mornings, and our care for each other through our Pastoral Groups and in other informal ways is good. And the hire of our hall so frequently (mainly Pre School and dancing groups) helps our finances immensely. We were pleased to receive permission to enable our premises to be shared each week with 'Cornerstone' an Indian Pentecostal church.

We trust that we are doing our best to share God's love in our community. We go forward with him and pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to lead us.

Keith & Di Thompson and Jane Borham

CRADLE ROLL

Since our last Annual Report there has been one baptism - 'Ruth' who sometimes joins us on Sunday mornings. Please remember to pray for her. Thank you.

Cindy Burt

ANNUAL FINANCE REPORT

Our general unrestricted funds at year end are £51,350, this is an increase of £4885 over the year. Our main income is offerings from our congregation and income from letting our premises to the wider community. A legacy of £5000 was received during the year.

A grant of £2540 was received from Colchester City Council, which paid for new heaters in the Church Hall and a grant of £1128 was awarded by Myland Community Council for the removal of a hedge, but this was not paid until after the end of August, so is not included in the accounts for year ending 31.08.25.

The restricted funds are The Community Pantry held on our premises and the Easter Offering. The Community Pantry is in credit by £1070 and the Easter Offering in debit by £29, this is due to the gift aid claimed paid out but not received until after 31.08.25.

In 2023 an exceptional legacy was received, we are working with an architect on plans to update our premises. We have two trusts invested with Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP), totalling £448,943, an increase of £19,106 during the year. which has been designated for the building project and a further £15,827 is also designated for the same purpose. £92 is designated to the Benevolence fund.

The adjustment of -£117 at C4 on the accounts is a correction as sum still to be paid at D4 was also included in total funds for the year.

Our reserves policy is to hold approximately six months running costs, which would be about £21,000, our funds at 31.08.25 exceed this. The building project is likely to result in extra costs.

Tracey Chapman

WORSHIP LEADERS

It has been good to work with Jane in our preparations for the services we have led over this past year, and her involvement has eased the load somewhat now that we have more Local Arrangements as well as Preachers asking for help when they come to The Well. We would love to have more Worship Leaders, though.

As always, we are so thankful for the Roots material, which helps in our preparations and gives us some great ideas, as well as more routine suggestions customised for each Sunday throughout the year. We are also grateful to The Ark at Highwoods who share the cost of Roots with us in order for them to access the material – cheaper for both churches.

We have the privilege of taking Home Communion to those from our church with long-term conditions which mean that they are unable to attend worship regularly and miss Holy Communion.

Thank you to all those who support us with their prayers and willingness to help, to Ken who fits in with whatever music ideas we may have and to all those whose gratitude and thanks is such an encouragement.

Jane Borham, John Jones and Di Thompson

WARM WELCOME

It has been good to welcome a few fresh faces to our Tuesday sessions, which are open every week during term-time between midday and 4.00pm. We provide tea, coffee, and children's drinks all the time we are open, soup and a roll at lunch time, and cakes during the afternoon. Sometimes we are given sandwiches and other foodstuffs which we can also offer. The game of Dominoes has become a favourite activity, along with jigsaws, whilst there is plenty of chatter. We were grateful for the District Grant of £1,000 last year, and are delighted that we have been awarded a grant again this year. Warm Welcome operates alongside our Community Pantry, and each week there is surplus food available for free. Both Lynsey and Hannah have completed the Level 2 Food Safety and Hygiene course and been awarded certificates, which helps immensely to share the load of work in the kitchen.

Di Thompson

PRAYER

The fortnightly Prayer Meeting continues to meet on a Tuesday morning, and, whilst small in number, the subjects which have been prayed for are shared via email and printed copies to everyone in our congregation. The back sheet of our weekly Notice sheet list current Prayer concerns, and our Prayer Board is well used. Our Methodist Prayer Handbook links us in prayer with Methodists throughout the Connexion and across the world, whilst local prayer takes place at the ecumenical Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity – at The Well again this year followed by a Coffee Morning – and at the World Day of Prayer in March once again held at West Bergholt.

Di Thompson

BIBLE STUDY

Bible study continues on Zoom under the able leadership of Rev Chris Preece. Over the year we have studied many different passages.

From Luke's Gospel we had a series appropriate for Advent and Christmas and during February Jonah was both studied and preached! The Gospel of John provided material to study during Lent, and, after Chris's sabbatical, we studied the first book of Timothy. Winnie the Pooh in Luke has made an appearance and at present we are looking at quotations of scripture in Handel's Messiah. This is then followed by listening to the actual music containing the quotation. What a joy!

You can either join in the study or just listen. We have varying opinions and all are respected. A good number from The Well join the Bible Study and if anyone else would like to join then that would be wonderful.

Keith Thompson

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY

We haven't been running properly since the August break. This is because Stephen has been so unwell. Thelma joins us when she can and numbers are sometimes boosted when a visiting preacher brings their child. When running, a story is read - we are currently using the 'Jesus Storybook Bible'. This is followed by an activity prepared by the relevant leader. These range from crafts to colouring pages/crossword puzzles/Christian anagrams. Some of the leaders pray with the child/children too. Please pray for God to guide the future of this work, for the children who attend and those who lead/help by sitting near the door to provide essential safeguarding. Thank you

Cindy Burt

MYLAND COMMUNITY PANTRY

Our Community Pantry sessions held fortnightly during termtime are always busy sessions! Because of generous grants, especially from one of our Local Councillors,

we have been enabled to keep the payment for each session to £2.00. We continue to purchase food from FareShare in Ipswich, and to receive donations from Bookers, Tesco Highwoods, Asda and Sainsbury's. All of this needs to be collected and we are grateful to those who give their time and the use of their car to enable this to happen. Whilst food is available during Pantry sessions, we are also called upon to pack up bags of food and toiletries for families going through some sort of crisis – again our thanks go to those who organise and deliver this. Grants from various sources allow us to give food for free to those struggling financially. The relieved, grateful smiles on the faces of those who we are able to help out is so rewarding, and makes all our hard work worthwhile.

In Jesus' Parable of the sheep and the goats, the King said, "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat." Myland Community Pantry endeavours to do this.

Di Thompson

HOLIDAY LUNCHES

It has not proved possible to continue to provide cooked meals during the school holidays, and consequently we have needed to leave TLG (MakeLunch) and look to other ways of providing food when children are not at school. Packed lunches in the church hall were poorly attended, sometimes with more helpers than visitors! A crate of lunches was taken to Highwoods where Lynsey was leading holiday Forest Fun sessions. This worked out quite well and so we decided that we would concentrate on packed lunches for Family Forest Fun sessions for the foreseeable future and not hold any activity in the hall. We take with us to the woods any surplus food that we have been given and distribute it in the car park.

Di Thompson

MYLAND CHURCHES TOGETHER

Our four churches, St Joseph's, St Michael's, New Growth Ministry and The Well meet regularly throughout the year. This year we celebrated The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18th – 25th January 2025) by having as many united events as possible. On the Saturday we had a service at The Well led by Rev Chris Preece with contributions from representatives from all the churches. It was followed by a Coffee Morning for the Outreach Fund. On the Sunday Rev Lynsey Heslegrave led a Forest Church in Highwoods and St Michael's had Morning Prayers on the Friday.

On Palm Sunday, those who were able to, met at St Joseph's for the blessing of Palm Crosses. The service was led by Fr. Chris Brooks with Rev Hazel Greenland giving the Homily and Ron Firmin reading the Scriptures. Palm Crosses were then brought from that service to give to members of congregations meeting later.

We had a presence at the VE Celebrations on 5th May on the Ford Lane recreation ground, which was organised by Myland Community Council. However, a planned summer activity had to be cancelled because a suitable venue could not to be found.

Fr. Chris Brooks from St Joseph's, retired on 2nd September this year and we are pleased to welcome Fr. Philip Okoli who has taken over from him.

The Chesterwell Co-op has given us permission to sing Christmas Carols outside their store on Friday 12th December starting at 6.30pm

Our representatives are John Jones (Secretary) and Keith Thompson (Chairman), if you have anything you would like to be considered.

Keith Thompson

SPONSORED CHILD

As Mimi approaches her 22nd Birthday (31st December) I wanted to share an update as she prepares to graduate. In Togo where she lives, young people can stay in the programme until around the age of 22. While Mimi's completion date may vary to allow her time to complete educational opportunities, it is expected that it will be in the next few months.

Compassion are very grateful to the Well Methodist Church for the part we have played in helping Mimi reaching this critical point after 10 years of support. While the thought of her graduating may seem very daunting, there is also great hope, joy and celebration in the fact that, through the local Methodist Church and our support, Mimi's been shown Christ's love and is equipped to thrive on her own.

When I receive a notification that Mimi has graduated from the programme, I will let you all know. In most cases, we will be asked if we would like to send a final letter or gift but I will be guided by the Church Council on this matter. Also, if we wish to sponsor another child in the future.

Mimi is very grateful to The Well for all the financial and prayerful support we have given her over many years and prays God's blessing on us all.

John Jones

ACTION FOR CHILDREN

Action for Children was founded by Methodists and its ethos is deeply rooted in Methodist principles. Action for Children protects and supports children and young people, providing practical and emotional care and support, ensuring their voices are heard, and campaigning to bring lasting improvements to their lives. Their vision is that every child and young person has a safe and happy childhood, and the foundations they need to thrive.

For every £1 spent, 85p goes directly towards helping children, young people and their families. Supporters help fund a huge range of programmes – from schemes preventing neglect to mental health support. Action for Children in the past year has been able to help over 765,905 vulnerable children and young people in the UK.

They have been working in partnership with the Methodist Church for 140 years to give society's most vulnerable and neglected children and young people the support they need. For more information on their work visit: - <https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/>

Supporters donate in their Action for Children boxes throughout the year. These are collected in annually and in 2025 our eight box holders raised £255.75 when their boxes were opened. If anyone would like a box please speak to me.

Christmas services, especially Carol services, often support the charity. The sum of £147 was donated following our Christmas day service.

There is also an Action for Children Sunday which gives particular attention to their work during worship.

The proceeds of our Coffee morning in July, £117.15, was donated to Action for Children.

Thanks to everyone for their support for these various efforts.

Sylvia Wilks

THE WELL METHODIST CHURCH TRUSTEES

Rev Chris Preece, Rev Hannah Chun, Jane Borham, Di Thompson, Keith Thompson, Tracey Chapman, Ian Alvey, Pauline Bacon, Zelda Boutell, Judith Fletcher, Hazel Fordham, Ken Jarvis, Sue Jarvis, John Jones, Sandra Jones, Eileen Sadler, Andrew Wilks, Sylvia Wilks, Susan Windscheffel, Sally Crafer.

The Well Methodist Church, Colchester

Annual Accounts for the year to 31st August 2025

THE WELL METHODIST CHURCH, COLCHESTER
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Well Methodist Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
 Sunday 31 August 2025

Colchester	Circuit	Circuit no.	34/6
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1208592

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:

Rev. Chris Preece

Church Stewards:

Jane Borham
Di Thompson
Keith Thompson

Treasurer:

Tracey Chapman

THE WELL METHODIST CHURCH, COLCHESTER
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

THE WELL METHODIST CHURCH, COLCHESTER
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The Well Methodist Church

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	19,415		19,415	20,056
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	20,871		20,871	22,844
a4	Lettings	17,591		17,591	15,407
a5	Other receipts	10,420	2,111	12,531	11,647
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	68,297	2,111	70,408 (a7)	69,954

SECTION B		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	20,288		20,288	20,104
b3	Donations	750		750	70
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	11,647		11,647	9,363
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	6,314		6,314	5,656
b6					
b7	Other payments	5,307	1,183	6,490	9,014
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	44,306	1,183	45,489 (b9)	44,207

SECTION C		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR (a6-b8)	23,991	928	24,919	25,747
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year	492,220	113	492,333 (c6)	466,703
c3	Sub total (c1+c2)	516,211	1,041	517,252	492,450
c4	Transfers and adjustments			(c7)	(117)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR (c3+c4)	516,211	1,041	517,252 (c8)	492,333 (c6)

SECTION D		£	£
FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS			
d	(these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)		
d1	Balance brought forward from last year	117	117
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations	1,900	1,275
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	1,900	1,275
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1+d2-d3)	117	117

THE WELL METHODIST CHURCH, COLCHESTER
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2025		OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
£1	Cash in hand		
£2	Bank Current Account	23,991	18,039
£3	Bank Deposit Account		
£4	Central Finance Board	38,505	50,270
£5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	429,837	448,943
£6	Other funds		
£7	SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	492,333 (c6)	517,252 (c8)
£8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	0 (e11)	0 (e12)
£9	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	492,333 (x)	517,252 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES		At 1 September 2024	At 31 August 2025
g1	Investments (include Endowments)		
g2	Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	1,635,611	1,678,143
g3	Other Assets		
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5	Other Liabilities		

THE WELL METHODIST CHURCH, COLCHESTER
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

DECLARATIONS & SCRUTINY

Name of Church ... **The Well Methodist Church, Colchester**..... No... **1208592**.....

Declarations and Scrutiny

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

Signature of treasurer T. Chapman..... Date 20.3.26

Name and address of treasurer TRACEY CHAPMAN.....

S TRAJAN CLOSE COLCHESTER..... Post Code CO4 5GE

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 were/~~will be~~* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 22.3.26

Signature of the Chair of the meeting C. Preece.....

Name of the Chair of the meeting C. PREECE..... Date 22/3/26

THE WELL METHODIST CHURCH, COLCHESTER
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

The Well Methodist Church, Colchester

Charity Number 1208592

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Well Methodist Colchester Church for the year ended 31 August 2025 set out on pages 4-5. 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.

Name of Church ... The Well Methodist Church, Colchester - No 1208592

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 obtained 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 Alistair H Jenkins

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ... Fellow of Institute of Chartered Accountants

The Well Methodist Church, Colchester

Annual Accounts for the year to 31st August 2025

THE WELL METHODIST CHURCH, COLCHESTER
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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Name of the Chair of the meeting C. PREECE Date 22/3/26

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Signature of independent examiner



Name of independent examiner Alistair H Jenkins

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ... Fellow of Institute of Chartered Accountants