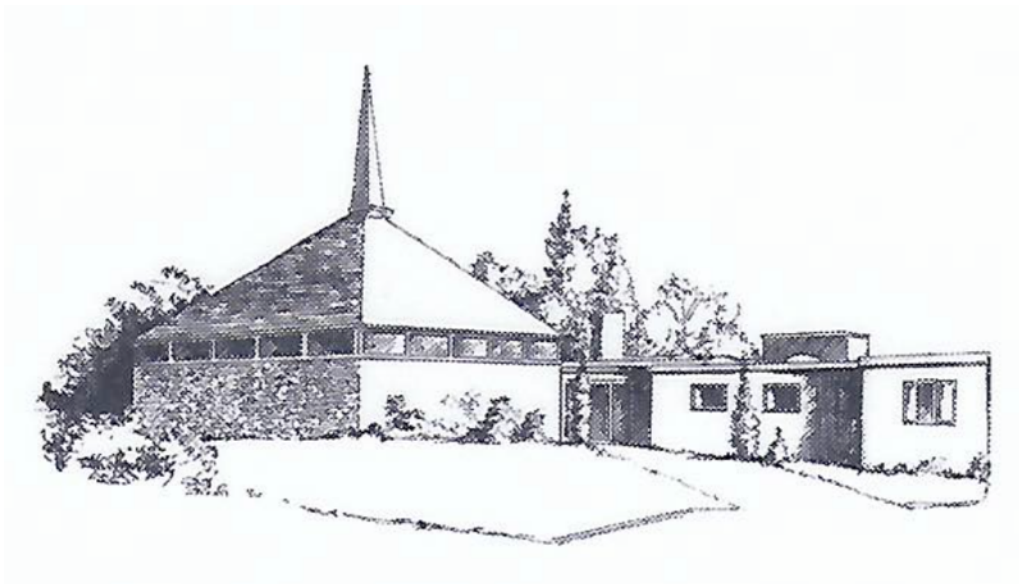


# **Digswell Village Church**



## **Trustees' Annual Report**

**Financial Year 1/9/24 - 31/8/25**



A Methodist Church working in a Partnership Agreement with the Anglican  
Parish of Digswell

Registered Charity 1212114

## Introduction

Digswell Village Church (DVC) is a gathering of Christians from different traditions, worshipping and working together in unity. The membership of the church currently stands at 54 adults. In addition, there are 9 children, 5 of whom attend regularly.

DVC is a Methodist Church in the St Alban's and Welwyn Circuit and has a formal Partnership Agreement with the Parish of Digswell. 40% of the services are Anglican led and several joint activities take place throughout the year.

## Vision and Mission

Our **vision** is to be a Christian focus at the heart of the neighbourhood where all are welcome, find peace and celebrate the joy of knowing God.

Our **mission** is to grow as a community by:

- Encouraging one another through the challenges of life and faith, and
- Expressing God's love to the world through outreach and care.

## Activities

### *Our Building*

The Trustees are committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to be part of our church community. We have therefore begun a large development project to redesign the internal layout of the building which currently has 4 changes of level between the car park and worship area. In addition to making the building more accessible the design incorporates an air-source heat pump and additional insulation thus reducing our carbon footprint. Our church has registered as an Eco Church, and we will develop this further on completion of our refurbishment project. This project is possible because of a large legacy (see Financial Section) and the working together of the Trustees, church

members and professional architects. The project has been approved by the Beds, Essex and Herts Methodist District and building is due to commence in the Spring of 2026.

The refurbished building will be a great asset to the church but also to present and future users of the building including Guides, Brownies, music groups and special interest groups.

### *Learning and Developing Our Faith*

We hold a monthly bible study group in conjunction with the Parish and, during Advent and Lent, hold weekly discussion groups. Members can also take part in the Methodist Circuit bible study and prayer meetings.

### *Junior Church*

Junior Church runs during the Sunday Service, each Sunday during term time when it is not an All-Age Worship service. We have a small core of regular children who have been exploring Bible stories, Christian values, and celebrating special events in the Christian calendar. After discussing what we have learned the children make a pictorial representation of the theme of the lesson which they like to show to everyone in church. The children who attend regularly were once again awarded book tokens at the Summer Celebration.

### *Equality Diversity & Inclusion*

We welcome everyone to our church. To enable those no longer able to travel to church, because of illness or frailty, to take part in worship we live stream via our YouTube channel and record all our services. The appropriate signage is in place to protect people's privacy.

During the financial year 2024/25 our premises were registered for same-sex marriage which also demonstrates our willingness to include people regardless of their sexual orientation.

One service each month is designated "All Age Worship" where the service is accessible to children and young people as well as older adults.

### *Outreach*

Our successful "Tuesday Get Together" group meets twice per month and is attended by about 25 people. It is a mix of church members and non-members and includes a talk, refreshments and a short, simple time of worship at the end of the meeting.

On Tuesdays, when the Tuesday Get Together group do not meet, we hold a coffee and chat session for anyone in the community who wishes to attend.

We have ringfenced a portion of the recent legacy to employ a Community Chaplain from Spring 2027. The role of this person is still under discussion but will include the needs of older people and children in our community. We have already trialled a children's film morning and will be running another one in December 2025.

A Christmas Card is distributed to all homes in the village and as a result over 100 people attend our annual Christingle Service.

### *Service*

A team of people from the church visit a local care home each month to sing hymns.

We support two other charities each year. Our chosen charities for 2024/2025 were Resolve (a local group offering support to overcome substance abuse) and Mercy Ships. A group of enthusiastic knitters from the church also donate blankets for people in need.

### *Pastoral Care*

In addition to offering fellowship through the Tuesday Get Together meetings and Coffee and Chat, we have an arrangement whereby all members are allocated a Pastoral Friend whose role it is to keep in touch with a small group of members, be a listening ear and signpost areas of support should these be needed.

### *Communication*

We have a church website <https://www.digswellvillagechurch.org.uk/> which includes details of our services and activities as well as contact information.

A weekly bulletin is sent by email to all members and friends of the church and contains details of activities in the church and Parish for the week ahead. A Monthly newsletter contains news on past activities as well as the minister's letter. Paper copies are made available for people who do not use email.

## **Financial Statement**

The Financial Statement is uploaded to the Charity Commission as a separate, standalone, document.

## **Structure, Governance & Management**

Our governing document is the Methodist Church Act 1976.

The appointment of Trustees is set out in the Methodist Church Constitutional Practice and Discipline (CPD). Church members elect the congregational representatives to the Church Council, and the Church Council elect the treasurer and secretary. The Presbyter (Minister) is automatically a member of the Church Council.

The members also elect up to 4 stewards to who, with the Presbyter, form the Church leadership team. All Church Council members, including Stewards, Treasurer and Secretary are Trustees of DVC.

We employ a church administrator who acts as secretary to the Church Council.

The Trustees are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the church including how funds are to be spent.

The Safeguarding Officer is appointed by the Church Council. Our safeguarding policy is reviewed annually.

## **Administrative Information**

Address: 2 Warren Way, Digswell, Welwyn, AL6 0DH

Church Council Members

Minister: Revd Rosemary Mutopo

Stewards: Mrs Joanne Peacock (Senior Steward)

Mr John Robinson

Mrs Mary Burnside

Treasurer: Mr Michael Peacock

Secretary: Mrs Gillian White

Property Steward:

Mr Huw Wright

Elected Members:

Mrs Julie Handscomb

Mr Robert Handscomb

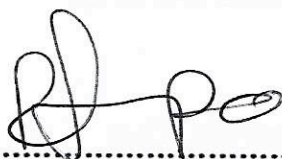
Mrs Diana Holt

Mr Peter Holt

Mrs Jane Lewis

Mrs Linda Wright

Approved by the Church Council on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2026 and signed on their behalf by the Revd Rosemary Mutopo (Chair).



Revd Rosemary Mutopo

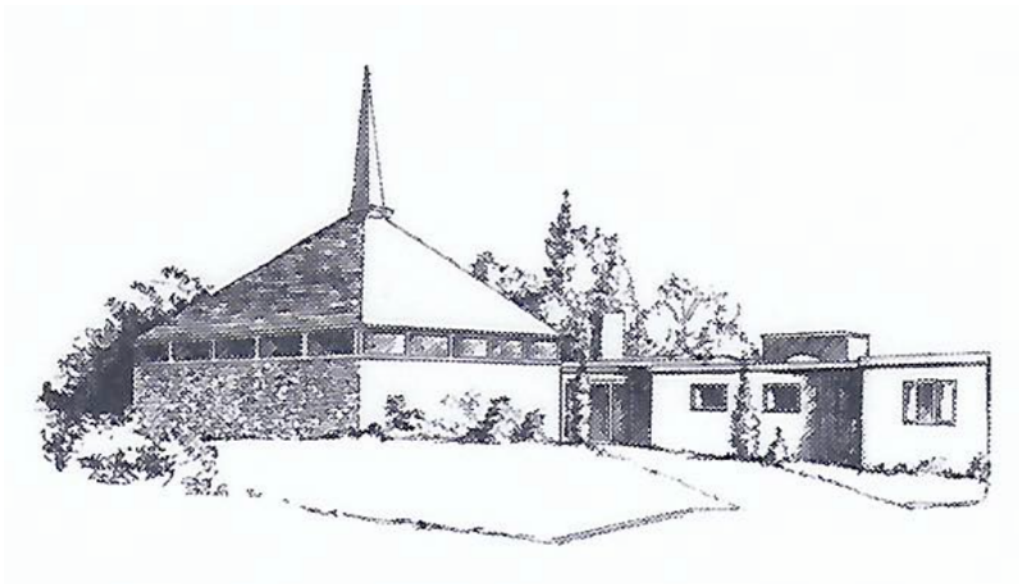
21<sup>st</sup> April 2026

# **Digswell Village Church**



## **Financial Statement**

**Financial Year 1/9/24 - 31/8/25**



A Methodist Church working in a Partnership Agreement with the Anglican  
Parish of Digswell

Registered Charity 1212114

THE METHODIST CHURCH  
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

**Digswell Village**

Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

Sunday 31 August 2025

**St Albans & Welwyn**

Circuit

Circuit no.

**34/13**

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1212114

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 Rosemary Mutopo**

Church Stewards:

**Mrs Joanne Peacock**

**Mr John Robinson**

**Mrs Mary Burnside**

Treasurer:

**Mr Michael Peacock**



SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	<b>RECEIPTS</b>	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	25,656.28		<b>25,656.28</b>	28,404.03
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	65,302.19	261.68	<b>65,563.87</b>	40,359.25
a4	Lettings	3,050.00		<b>3,050.00</b>	3,797.50
a5	Other receipts	2,164.80	10,000.00	<b>12,164.80</b>	1,325,761.00
a6	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>96,173.27</b>	<b>10,261.68</b>	<b>106,434.95</b> (a7)	<b>1,398,321.78</b>

SECTION B					
b1	<b>PAYMENTS</b>				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	32,476.32		<b>32,476.32</b>	30,151.01
b3	Donations				
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	12,956.06		<b>12,956.06</b>	12,136.87
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	4,064.21		<b>4,064.21</b>	4,294.32
b6	Charities	3,050.00		<b>3,050.00</b>	3,797.50
b7	Other payments	101,928.89		<b>101,928.89</b>	20,509.12
b8	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>154,475.48</b>		<b>154,475.48</b> (b9)	<b>70,888.82</b>

SECTION C					
c1	<b>NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>(a6-b8)</b>	-58,302.21	10,261.68	<b>-48,040.53</b>
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		1,515,623.15	5,767.72	<b>1,521,390.87</b> (c6)
c3	<b>Sub total</b>	<b>(c1+c2)</b>	1,457,320.94	16,029.40	<b>1,473,350.34</b>
c4	Transfers and adjustments				(c7)
c5	<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>(c3+c4)</b>	<b>1,457,320.94</b>	<b>16,029.40</b>	<b>1,473,350.34</b> (c8)
					<b>1,521,390.87</b> (c6)

SECTION D				
<b>FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS</b>				
d	(these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)		£	£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year			
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations		1,016.37	1,364.50
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations		1,016.37	1,364.50
d4	<b>BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID</b>	<b>(d1+d2-d3)</b>		

For Charity Commission Annual Report: Total Income (a7+d2) 107,451

Total Expenditure (b9+d3) 155,492

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

Summary of the Church accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Church Council/Church Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross income and expenditure totals of the Church. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the District and connected District Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS		Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances		Closing balances	
e1									
e2									
e3									
e4									
e5									
e6									
e7									
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds						(e11)		(e12)
e9	Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	106,434.95 (a7)	154,475.48 (b9)	- 48,040.53	(c7)	1,521,390.87 (c6)		1,473,350.34 (c8)	
e10	<b>TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH</b>	<b>106,434.95</b>	<b>154,475.48</b>	<b>- 48,040.53</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,521,390.87 (x)</b>		<b>1,473,350.34 (y)</b>	
Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward		<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>						

**SECTION F****STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2025**

		OPENING BALANCES		CLOSING BALANCES	
f1	Cash in hand				
f2	Bank Current Account	1,170.45		2,766.56	
f3	Bank Deposit Account			17,560.79	
f4	Central Finance Board	81,388.50		93,012.99	
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	1,438,831.92		1,360,010.00	
f6	Other funds				
f7	<b>SUB TOTAL - Church accounts</b>	<b>1,521,390.87 (c6)</b>		<b>1,473,350.34 (c8)</b>	
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	- (e11)		- (e12)	
f9	<b>TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH</b>	<b>1,521,390.87 (x)</b>		<b>1,473,350.34 (y)</b>	

**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)		
g3	Other Assets		
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5	Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board


f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trusts accounts this is included in line f5)

Name of Church: **Digswell Village Church No 34/14**

## 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 .....  ..... Date: **20th April 2026**

Name and address of treasurer ..... **Michael Peacock**  
**75 Digswell Park Road**  
..... **Welwyn Garden City**  
**AL8 7NW**

### 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 ... **21 APRIL 2026**

Signature of the Chair of the meeting .....  .....

Name of the Chair of the meeting **Rev Rosemary Mutopo** Date **21 April 2026**.

### Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

#### Digswell Village Church

Charity Number 1212114

### Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Digswell Village Church for the year ended 31 August 2025 set out on pages **2** to **3**. As the Church's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

\* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Church: Digswell Village Church No 34/13

### Independent Examiner's Statement

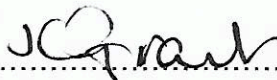
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below\*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- 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 independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner: .....



Name of independent examiner: **Mrs Joanne Grant**

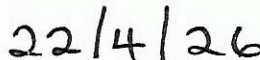
Relevant professional qualification of  
independent examiner: **Chartered Accountant (ICAEW)**

Name of firm (where appropriate) **N/A**

Address: **3 Sharmans Close  
Digswell**

Post Code: **AL6 0AR**

Date .....



\* delete or circle as appropriate

## **Notes to the Financial Statement**

### **Income**

Total income for 2024/25 was £107,451 (bottom of page 2).

£61,270 of the investment interest (line a3) came from the legacies mentioned in the Trustees' Annual Report, which are held on our behalf by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) and the remainder from deposit accounts.

Operational income from member contributions, tax recovery, lettings, associated interest and donations was £34,903.

Tax recovered via the Gift Aid Scheme amounted to £3,964 on unrestricted giving and £38 on collections for the charities we support.

### **Expenditure**

Total expenditure for 2024/25 was £155,492 (bottom of page 2) and consists of operational and capital costs.

#### *Operational Costs*

Expenditure for the general running of the church amounted to £49,694, as £10,012 of the £12,956 maintenance costs (line b4) were funded by the interest received from the trusts. This resulted in an operational deficit of £14,791 for the year. However, as the hall hire income of £3,050 was donated to the charities we support, the underlying deficit was £11,741.

#### *Capital Costs*

During the year, the design work for the long-awaited refurbishment of the Church building cost £86,925 which consumed the monies in one of the trusts so at 31 August 2025 only one trust remained.

The works on the building itself are expected to commence in our financial year 2025/26 so the level of Trust Income will fall substantially over the next year as the remaining Trust capital is consumed.

## Allocation of Funds Available

The Trustees decided that it would be difficult to ask the congregation to increase their giving while we had such a large amount of income from the Trusts, so in December 2024, £56,000 was designated to cover deficits for a period of up to 5 years.

At the same time, £150,000 was designated to pay for Mission projects including the appointment of an Administrator from January 2025, and a Community Chaplain when the Refurbishment is completed in approx November 2026

<u>3 Dec 2024</u>	Deficit Cover	Mission	Refurbishment
Trusts	46,000	130,000	1,262,832
Other a/cs	10,452	20,078	48,036
Total	56,452	150,078	1,310,868

The Refurbishment project is due to go out to tender in late 2025 so until then it is not clear how much the development will cost and so the effect on the interest income will not be known either. At that time, we will reassess how we will meet our costs going forwards

## **Reserves and Investments Policy**

It is DVC policy to maintain a balance of unrestricted funds (if possible), which equates to at least six months operational payments, equivalent to £24,000, to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. The unrestricted funds, after designations, at the year-end exceeded this target for reasons explained earlier.

It is our policy to invest our money with the Central Finance Board (CFB) of the Methodist Church. We also hold a deposit account with CAFbank .

===== End of Report =====