

Alderman's Green Free Methodist Church
Trustees Report for the period 1st November 2022 to 31st October 2023

We believe

*In Christ crucified, dead and buried;
raised from the dead on the third day,
who sits at the right of God the Father in heaven.*

We worship and serve the risen Christ!

Administrative Information

Alderman's Green Church is situated on Alderman's Green Road, Coventry.

The church is governed by the Board of Trustees which abides by the Trust Deed set up on 5th January 1909. The Trustees are the guardians of the doctrine and have a legal responsibility to ensure the church complies with the prevailing laws in England and Wales.

The Trustees are the employers of all paid employees (no paid workers during this period).

Every Trustee is a church member.

Objectives

The Trustees and Church Members are committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship the living God, through the Scriptures, prayer, the Sacrament, and music, at the church, and for the church to be known in our community.

We seek to serve the living Creator God, his Son Jesus – the Saviour of the World, - and through the Holy Spirit.

Wesleyan Reform Union

The Church is a member of the Wesleyan Reform Union of Churches, based at Church Street, Jump, Barnsley. The Church adheres to the doctrine of the Union as set out in their publication '*Faith and Practice*'.

Governance and Management

Trustee's responsibilities are shown above. The Church Members are responsible for decision making on matters of general concern and decide how the church funds are to be used. Church meetings are held quarterly.

Church Membership

Anyone who desires, through the profession of their faith in the One Creator God and his Son Jesus Christ, as Saviour of the world, will have their name presented to the church meeting. Once accepted the nominee will be welcomed into full church membership at the next available service of Holy Communion. The new member takes on the full responsibility of financial support, attendance at worship, to use their God-given gifts and talents to further the work of the church and to ensure that it continues to serve the needs of the people of Alderman's Green and beyond.

The Minister

In August 2022, our previous minister, Rev. David Bracken, moved to another Wesleyan Reform Union Church in Rushden. We currently have no minister and rely on visiting preachers to lead our Sunday Services.

Worship

Our services of worship are normally held on Sundays at 11:00 am, where the truth of God's Word is preached at all our services. These services are open to all. Additional services at Easter, Harvest-time, Advent, Christmas and as announced.

The Church Anniversary is celebrated on the last Sunday in October every year.

Holy Communion

We celebrate Holy Communion on the first Sunday in the month and invite all those who love the Lord to join us at His table.

Children and Youth Work – Sunday School AKA Worship Warriors

We have an active Sunday school with up to eight pupils, two Sunday School Staff and other helpers. We welcome children to the Sunday School from the age of a few months to sixteen years of age.

The aim of the Sunday School is to bring to life the Bible stories, to know Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour and to prepare the young people for church membership.

Church Safeguarding

We use the services of Thirty-one eight, an organisation which provides support and guidance for our Church Safeguarding. We have appointed a Lead Recruiter for the Church Safeguarding process and appointed two Child Protection Officers.

A Child Protection Policy is in place.

All the Church Trustees, Sunday School staff, and everyone who has regular contact with children and vulnerable adults have undergone DBS checks – all of whom have clear records. The need for new DBS checks is continually monitored and existing DBS checks are either renewed, or updated via the DBS Update Service, at least once every three years.

Prayer Meetings

These meetings are held weekly on Wednesday evenings via Zoom. We welcome anyone who may wish to join this group.

Home Group Bible Study

These meetings are held monthly in people's homes and are open to all who may wish to join the group.

Missions Work

The work of home and overseas missions is actively encouraged and well-supported with regular gifts and specific fund-raising activities. We thank everyone who supports this work in so many ways.

The Trustees

The Trustees holding office for the period of this report are:

Rodney Harvey (Chair)
David Lee
Stuart Porter
Robert Preston
Rita Price
James Porter
Neil McIntyre
Martin Ashton (Appointed December 2022)

Buildings

The church premises and a nearby house are owned by the church. As we currently have no minister the house is being rented out.

Finance

The church accounts are shown below. Some of our church members are part of the HMRC Gift Aid Scheme covering their weekly gifts for the work of the church. We gratefully acknowledge the weekly giving of all those who attend our worship services.

General Data Protection Compliance

We have a GDPR Officer who ensures that we are fully compliant with the guidelines of this issue.

Church Café

Up until December 2022 we held a Church Café on Fridays from 9:00 am to 11:00 am, with the aim of attracting parents and carers on the return journey from school to join us for a short time. This changed in January 2023 to Fridays from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon, with the aim of forming and maintaining links with our local community, and a 'warm space' in the winter months.

Volunteers

We thank all the volunteers who have worked hard to make our church vibrant, lively and welcoming, and for fulfilling maintenance tasks to keep our property in good order. Our volunteers do so knowing that they are fulfilling God's calling for them and our church.

Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge:

- The work of our accountant for the preparation of our annual accounts.
- Those who have continued to donate remotely to support the work of our church.
- The support of our church members and adherents week by week.
- The work undertaken by our volunteers.
- Those who take on responsibility, behind the scenes, to further the Lord's work in our church.
- Those who lend their unfailing support for the provision of drinks following our morning services.
- The work of the Board of Trustees.

Aldermans Green Free Methodist Church

Receipts and Payments account for the year ended 31st October 2023

RECEIPTS	2023	2022
	£	£
Weekly offerings	20,116.74	17,994.00
Income tax claim	-	3,454.26
Government incentive - Employers NI refund	-	954.40
Gift Day	-	285.00
Church funerals - fees	-	200.00
Use of hall	250.00	365.00
Sale of piano	-	96.00
Donations -		
Donation	4,000.00	1,000.00
Donation - Organ	-	463.00
Donation - Projector Fund	-	10.00
Donations - Building Fund	-	2,922.20
Donation - Zoom expenses	-	172.48
Christingle	-	67.00
Messy Church	85.73	516.84
Sunday School offering	-	87.00
Donations - Funerals	210.00	11.00
Donation - Gift D Bracken	-	300.00
WRU Hosting	-	585.00
Interest	394.48	68.25
Craft Club	1,000.00	-
Youth Club Celebration Workshop	120.00	-
Rent Income - The Manse	11,000.00	-
Total Receipts	37,176.95	76,655.07
Total Payments	19,850.33	60,339.76
Net receipts/(payments) for the year	17,326.62	29,498.62
Balance Lloyds Bank as 31st October 2022	1,987.94	3,345.99
Cash at Building Society at 31st October 2022	39,897.67	69,327.95
	59,212.23	72,673.94
Balance Lloyds Bank at 31st October 2023	176.54	1,987.94
Cash at Building Society at 31st October 2023	59,035.69	39,897.67
	-	-
Total Cash at 31st October 2023	59,212.23	72,673.94

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PAYMENTS	2023		2022
	£	£	£
Church maintenance (A)	6,511.55		28,541.68
Manse maintenance (B)	7,659.26		10,072.97
Minster's stipend	-		14,095.80
Minitster's communication allowance	-		250.00
Church NI contributions	-		954.40
Church pension contributions	-		563.80
PAYE/NI contributions paid for previous year	-		145.91
PAYE/NI contributions owed for this year	-		-
Pulpit Supplies	1,440.00		598.00
Membership subscriptions	1,260.75		2,127.50
Gift to independent auditor	200.00		200.00
Offerings envelopes	-		101.62
Christian Copyright licencing	413.30		387.89
Donations -			
You Can Flourish	-		100.00
Loveitts Fees	1,400.53		
Stationery/postage/ink cartridges	44.62		390.97
Marriage register	-		25.00
Church website	175.00		18.00
Safeguarding	-		304.00
Organ tuning	174.00		342.00
Gift - D Bracken	-		300.00
Zoom	143.88		172.48
ThirtyOne Eight	145.00		-
Christingles	-		100.00
Projector consumables	-		27.74
Year books	13.08		13.00
Conference fees	200.00		365.00
Half yearly meeting	-		142.00
First Aid Supplies	45.36		-
Food Hygiene Training	24.00		-
Total Payments	19,850.33		60,339.76