

# Fulwood Free Methodist Church

Report and Accounts

Year ended 31 December 2024

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**FREE METHODIST CHURCH, FULWOOD**  
**also known as FULWOOD FREE METHODIST CHURCH**

**CHARITY INFORMATION**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

<b>Trustees</b>	Stephen Allen Michael Bedford (appointed 1 September 2025) David Brown Carol Gornall (resigned 30 August 2024) David Hamblin Martin Little (appointed 1 September 2025) Gladys Mahachi (appointed 1 September 2024) Timothy Mitchell (appointed 1 September 2024) Andrew Slack Lucy Sutton (appointed 1 September 2025) Nicola Thorpe (appointed 1 September 2025) Geoff Tomlinson (resigned 31 August 2025) Rev. Ian Winter (resigned 13 December 2024) Sara Wright (appointed 1 September 2025)
<b>Key Staff</b>	Rev. Ian Winter (until 13 December 2023) Rev. Lawrence Davie Rev. Rebecca Parkinson
<b>Custodian Trustees</b>	Matthew Johns Dr Philip Johns
<b>Governing Document</b>	Book of Discipline of the Free Methodist Church (updated 2023) Approved scheme of the Charity Commission dated 21 April 1983 and last amended 9 March
<b>Charity Registration Number</b>	514359
<b>Principal Address and Registered Office</b>	Lightfoot Lane Fulwood Preston P32 3LT
<b>Independent Examiner</b>	Archie McDowall BA CA Stewardship 1 Lamb's Passage London EC1Y 8AB

**Main Bankers**

HSBC Bank plc  
49A Fishergate  
Preston  
PR1 8BH

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# **FREE METHODIST CHURCH, FULWOOD**

## **Trustees' Annual Report**

**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

### **Objects of the charity**

The furtherance in the area served by the Fulwood Church of the religious and other charitable work of the Free Methodist Church of North America in accordance with the doctrines, disciplines and usages of the Church for the time being as set out in the Book of Discipline

### **Summary of the charity's main activities and achievements**

To further the above objects and vision, the charity's main activities and achievements were as follows:

The Church's principal activity is to further its objects by providing a centre of Christian worship, of Christian ministry and of support to the wider community based in the Fulwood area of Preston. It does not define the concept of 'Church' in terms of buildings or services, though it owns buildings and holds services, but rather as a worshipping community seeking to serve God and to support the spiritual and practical needs of its members, the people living within its reach and the wider world. To this end, it runs a wide range of activities from its site in Fulwood, supports other Christian activities within its local area and also supports mission focused organisations overseas.

In planning the activities, the trustees have applied the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.

The Church's many activities are managed through Ministry Groups, each of which is led by a Group Leader. Each group reports to the Board and makes minutes of its meetings available to the Board. While it is clear that many activities are aimed at regular church attendees, no activity is "out of bounds" for casual visitors, and some activities are particularly aimed at people who otherwise have no association with the Church.

The Gatherings Team takes care of regular Sunday services and weekly prayer meetings (generally held at 7.00 am, 2.00 pm and 7.00 pm each Tuesday online). Prayer requests are brought from a wide range of sources from worldwide disasters to individuals some of whom have no other contact with the church. Since September 2015, except during Covid, we have held two services each Sunday morning. The second service is live streamed. An additional service is held on Sunday evenings.

The Outreach Team work to extend the message of the Gospel outside the borders of the Church itself. They lead regular events aimed at people enquiring about the Christian Faith, such as the Alpha Course. The team also plans special events from time to time, which are aimed to be of interest to non-Christians. Volunteers from Fulwood are at the forefront of the Street Pastor initiative in Preston. Along with volunteers from other churches, they work with the Police and local authority staff to provide a presence on streets where problems occur. Currently Street Pastors work in several areas of the city. The Church also operates a CAP (Christians Against Poverty) Centre. CAP is a national organisation, based in Bradford, which aims to help anybody who finds their debt situation unmanageable. It is led in Fulwood by a Centre Manager and Debt Coach, who are supported by a number of volunteers, and they liaise with the Bradford Centre, ensuring that correct debt advice is available to clients. This operation from the Fulwood Church aims to help clients living in the Fylde, Longridge, and North Preston. Some clients succeed in becoming debt free.

The Childrens, Youth & Families Ministry delivers an energetic programme covering the ages from birth to eighteen. Some activities take place Sunday Morning (Energise and Ignite) while others take place on weeknights. The weeknight activities attract many children and young people who have no other Church connection, some of whom go on to become regular church attendees. They also manage the weekly Toddler Groups and a Bump and Baby groups which meet regularly during term time. Also, a group entitled “Who let the Dads out?” meet monthly on a Saturday mornings. All these activities are open to all comers and are managed by volunteers.

The Discipleship Ministry focuses on new and more mature Christians. They are responsible for the adult and youth Homegroups, which aim to supplement the teaching and fellowship presented at Sunday Services. This group is led by a Discipleship Pastor.

The Friends and Neighbours Ministry probably has the widest impact in the area around the Church, working among non-church people as well as supporting Church attendees in many situations. The Wednesday Lunch Break provides soup and a sandwich for up to 80 people each week, including a group from a local care home specialising in people with significant learning difficulties. We also have a Food Pantry which is kept topped up on a continuous basis so there is always something available in an emergency. This FPMC Food Pantry is linked to similar projects run by the Preston Christian Action Network and the Salvation Army so we are able to co-operate with others in and around Preston. It also supports the CAP Centre (see above) as an important additional resource for clients seeking debt help. A weekly activity known as “Inspirations Crafts” attracts ladies from many backgrounds who simply enjoy the sewing and the company of other likeminded ladies, most of whom have no other connection with the church. This Ministry also supports the “Men’s Breakfast”, where an invited speaker addresses topics of particular relevance to men. Another activity is a weekly carpet bowling group. This has attracted a large cohort of new people and now meets in our main worship area as it offers the largest area for bowling lanes.

The Global Partnership arranges support for many of our mission contacts and in particular allocates the Missions Budget which comprises a minimum of 15% of general church giving. The Team also organises VISA (Volunteers in Service Abroad) Teams. These teams visit the various projects which the church supports and undertake various practical activities while there. Another aspect of our missions’ activity is the Kibogora Initiative that supports the work of Kibogora Hospital in Rwanda. It has its own ring-fenced bank accounts and raises funds under the title Kibogora Initiative. The main source of funds in 2024/25 was a gift day at Fulwood Free Methodist Church and regular monthly gifts many of which are through the sponsor-a-bed appeal. Support was also provided for the Free Methodist Polytechnic in Kibogora. The sponsor-a-pastor scheme has continued to provide scholarships for Rwandans who simply cannot afford to meet their own costs. Funding for this is channelled through the Kibogora accounts, as are other specific gifts for the polytechnic. All the accounts have comprehensive local audit. David Hamblin, one of the Fulwood trustees has now retired from being Vice Chancellor but remains advisor to the Vice Chancellor of Kibogora Polytechnic and remains in contact, providing advice and support. Within Rwanda the Kibogora Initiative is part of the Better Together group which seeks to improve communication amongst the various organisations involved in the hospital. This group includes the UK Free Methodist Conference, the Rwanda Free Methodist Conference, representatives of the Kibogora Free Methodist Church and CAHO (Central African Health Organisation: an American Charity which supports the work at Kibogora). Better Together met in person in November 2024 at Kibogora and members of the Fulwood team attended in person. We also receive quarterly written reports from Kibogora describing activities undertaken.

For Sierra Leone our donations go via the UK based Charity International Aid Trust (Charity Reg No: 1086597); for Rwanda they go to Kibogora Hospital which is regulated and audited by the Rwandan Ministry of Health;

and Pan de Vida is an Ecuadorian legally established non-profit organisation with the ministerial agreement MIES 0058 of September 21st 2007, and is also registered as a 501(c)3 foundation in the USA.

Each year we send a team of people to one of the three overseas projects we support. This allows people in our church to see for themselves how effective the projects are and for us to carry a review of effectiveness.

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

### **Organisation**

Major decisions are discussed and approved at Society Meetings where all church members can vote. Non-members who attend the church can attend the Society Meeting but cannot vote. The Board is made up principally of elected trustees. Elected Trustees are appointed by a ballot vote of Church Members at the Annual Society Meeting (typically held in June) or any of the other Society Meetings held at other times. They serve for a period of three years, but there is no limit to the period of service if nominated and re-elected at the end of their three-year term. Additionally, Lay Delegates are affirmed annually. Election requires a 50% majority of the members voting. Nominations are invited from church members three months in advance, closing one month later. If there are no or insufficient nominations at the closing date, the Board is empowered to make nominations as a co-operate body. A Senior Pastor may be appointed by the GB (UK) Conference of the Free Methodist Church. When there is a person appointed to the office of Senior Pastor, the Senior Pastor is ex officio a trustee and is a member of the Board. The Charity Scheme allows for the remuneration of the Senior Pastor. Rev Ian Winter resigned as Senior Pastor in December 2024 and ceased to be a trustee from the date of his resignation. At the time of writing (October 2025) the office of Senior Pastor is still vacant, and the Church has been managed by its elected trustees. The Board meets at least 3 times per year, and at other times if necessary.

The Board delegates Spiritual leadership issues to the Spiritual Leadership Team (SLT) which is made up of two lay delegates, (Lay Delegates attend and vote at the GB Annual Conference of the Free Methodist Church), the Senior Pastor if a person is appointed to that role, plus ordinary members to take the total to a maximum of 8 members. The Board also delegates general management issues to the Administrative Leadership Team (ALT), some of whom are appointed to a specific role (e.g. Church Secretary, Head of Finance) while others are appointed “without portfolio” and are given administrative responsibilities from time to time as agreed by the Board. The Board receives minutes from both the SLT, and the ALT, who can also pass major items back to the Board for final decisions.

In the fourth quarter of the year the Head of Finance heads up a small team to prepare a budget for the following year. This is based on prudent estimates of anticipated income from offerings, together with expected financial requirements which are related to the overall vision of the Church for the following year. This passes to the ALT, the Board and finally to a Society Meeting when the treasurer also presents (unexamined) financial information relating to the previous year.

The Church has taken time to consider the advantages of changing its structure to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The trustees and members are in favour of becoming a CIO using one of the Charity Commission model constitutions. Action to make this change will begin in late 2025 or early 2026.

## **Financial Review**

The Statement of Financial Activities is set out on page 9. Total receipts from unrestricted funds during the year were £396,905. Restricted donations of £84,831 were also received and are detailed in the financial statements. Total expenditure was £438,496. The net result for the year was a surplus of £43,240 compared to a deficit of £72,745 in 2023. The charity's net assets increased by the same amount, to £2,387,467, of which £2,287,615

were unrestricted and can be used for any charitable purpose. Net current assets increased by £52,351 to £475,015, of which £375,163 were unrestricted.

Income is mostly derived from free will gifts made to the church by Church Members and other attendees, some of which is designated to specific causes. This income is supplemented by tax refunds on Gift Aided donations, and occasionally by income from other charities, usually other Christian organisations, or grants from public bodies. The trustees manage incoming resources by a combination of prudent spending within an annual budget which is set by the Finance Committee and approved by the Board and Church Members.

The trustees, by virtue of the regular Board meetings, constantly make judgements and estimates relating to available funds and appropriate allocation of those funds. These are based on regular (four times per year) Income and Expenditure accounts prepared by the Church Treasurer and scrutinised by the Board. Unexpected demands on these funds can then be handled appropriately. The Trustees, through the Treasurer, keep appropriate records which satisfy the legal requirements placed on trustees.

### **Investments Policy**

Funds that are not needed immediately are invested in reputable UK financial institutions covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. Invested money is split between fixed term accounts paying relatively high returns and accounts allowing quick access but paying lower returns.

### **Reserves Policy**

The charity aims to hold a minimum of £165,000 (which is in excess of six months of the Church operating expenditure) as unrestricted cash, so that the charity could continue to operate should income and / or expenditure vary adversely. At the year end, the charity held unrestricted cash and cash equivalent deposits of £367,664.

### **Key Risks and Uncertainties**

The charity is exposed to various risks - be they operational, financial or reputational. The trustees review the charity's activities regularly to identify significant risks and, where possible, they take appropriate measures to mitigate those risks.

### **Responsibilities of Trustees under charity law**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).


Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charity as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

1. select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
2. observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
3. make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
4. state whether the applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
5. prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**Approval**

This report was approved by the trustees, and is signed on their behalf by:

Name	STEVE ALLEN
Signature	 <a href="#">SJAllen (Oct 30, 2025 15:59:34 GMT)</a>
Date	Oct 30, 2025



**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**  
**TO THE TRUSTEES OF**  
**FREE METHODIST CHURCH, FULWOOD**  
**('the Charity')**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2024 on pages 9 to 23 following, which have been prepared on the basis of the accounting policies set out on pages 11 to 13.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's 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 Charity'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**

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

*Archie McDowall*

[Archie McDowall \(Oct 30, 2025 17:44:06 GMT\)](#)

Archie McDowall BA CA  
Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland  
Stewardship  
1 Lamb's Passage  
London  
EC1Y 8AB

Date: Oct 30, 2025

**FREE METHODIST CHURCH, FULWOOD**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023 Restated
	Note	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	352,639	84,831	437,470	397,047
Charitable activities	4	38,965	-	38,965	31,743
Investments	5	5,301	-	5,301	5,593
<b>Total income and endowments</b>		<b>396,905</b>	<b>84,831</b>	<b>481,736</b>	<b>434,383</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>					
Charitable activities	6	331,978	106,517	438,496	507,661
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>331,978</b>	<b>106,517</b>	<b>438,496</b>	<b>507,661</b>
<b>Net gains/(losses) on investments</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>64,927</b>	<b>(21,687)</b>	<b>43,240</b>	<b>(73,278)</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	14	<b>(36,990)</b>	<b>36,990</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>27,937</b>	<b>15,303</b>	<b>43,240</b>	<b>(73,278)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		2,259,679	84,548	2,344,227	2,417,505
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	14	<b>2,287,615</b>	<b>99,852</b>	<b>2,387,467</b>	<b>2,344,227</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing operations.

The notes on page 11-22 form part of these accounts.

# FREE METHODIST CHURCH, FULWOOD

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 Restated £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	8	1,912,452	-	1,912,452	1,921,563
		<u>1,912,452</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,912,452</u>	<u>1,921,563</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	9	21,060	4,857	25,917	52,619
Investments	10	170,000	-	170,000	-
Cash at bank and in hand	11	197,664	94,995	292,659	390,422
		<u>388,724</u>	<u>99,852</u>	<u>488,576</u>	<u>443,042</u>
<b>CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	12	(13,561)	-	(13,561)	(20,378)
		<u>375,163</u>	<u>99,852</u>	<u>475,015</u>	<u>422,664</u>
<b>Net current assets / (liabilities)</b>					
		<u>375,163</u>	<u>99,852</u>	<u>475,015</u>	<u>422,664</u>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<u>2,287,615</u>	<u>99,852</u>	<u>2,387,467</u>	<u>2,344,227</u>
<b>FUND BALANCES</b>	14				
Unrestricted Funds					
General funds		2,244,205	-	2,244,205	2,259,678
Designated funds		43,411	-	43,411	-
		<u>2,287,615</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,287,615</u>	<u>2,259,678</u>
Restricted Funds		<u>-</u>	<u>99,852</u>	<u>99,852</u>	<u>84,549</u>
		<u>2,287,615</u>	<u>99,852</u>	<u>2,387,467</u>	<u>2,344,227</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and were signed on its behalf by:

*SJAllen*

SJAllen (Oct 30, 2025 15:59:34 GMT)

STEVE ALLEN

Date: Oct 30, 2025

Charity number: 514359

The notes on page 11-22 form part of these accounts.

**FREE METHODIST CHURCH, FULWOOD**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**1 Statutory Information**

The charity is a trust registered with the Charity Commission in England & Wales. The charity's registered number and principal address can be found on the Charity Information page.

**2 Accounting Policies**

These financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of certain assets, which are measured at fair value through the Statement of Financial Activities.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the "Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) ("the Charities SORP")", with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland ("FRS 102") and with the Charities Act 2011. The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity as set out in FRS 102.

The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 (the '2008 Regulations') requires charities to prepare their accounts in accordance with 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005' but this accounting standard has since been withdrawn and has been replaced by the Charities SORP mentioned in the preceding paragraph. The charity has prepared these financial statements in accordance with the new Charities SORP; this departure from the 2008 Regulations is believed to be necessary for these financial statements to give a 'true and fair view'.

The previous year's results, which are stated for the purposes of comparison, have been restated following the identification of an error in the preparation of the financial statements for the year to 31 December 2023. This is referred to in notes 6, 11, 12 and 14 below.

The principles adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below.

a) Going concern

The trustees (who are the charitable company's directors for the purposes of company law) have assessed whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of approval of the financial statements. In particular the trustees have considered the charity's forecasts and projections and the possible implications should projected income and / or expenditure vary unexpectedly. The trustees have concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue to operate for the foreseeable future. The charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

b) Income

Income including investment income is recognised in the period in which the charity becomes entitled to receipt, the amount receivable can be measured with reasonable certainty, and receipt is probable. For the most part, income is generally recognised when it is received. Income is only deferred when the charity has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it or where the donor has specified that the income is to be expended in a future period.

Income from donations and legacies includes:

- i) Recoverable gift aid. This is recognised when the related donation is received. Gift aid that has not been recovered by the balance sheet date is included as a debtor.
- ii) Donated facilities, services and goods. Goods donated for distribution to beneficiaries are recognised as income when receivable at fair value (being an estimate of the amount it would cost to purchase those items) and such is material. Facilities, services and goods donated for the charity's own use are recognised as income when receivable at their value to the charity.

The charity relies on volunteers to carry out many of its activities. However, in accordance with the SORP, the value of these services has not been included in these financial statements as they cannot be reliably measured.

When donated goods, services and facilities are distributed or consumed, an expense in respect of those items is included in the Statement of Financial Activities. At the year end any goods that have not been distributed or consumed are recognised as stock; donated fixed assets are capitalised.

**FREE METHODIST CHURCH, FULWOOD**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**2 Accounting Policies (continued)**

- iii) **Legacies.** Income from legacies is recognised when a distribution is received from the estate or, if earlier, when the charity has been notified that a distribution will be made and the amount receivable can be measured reliably.

Income from charitable activities represents income receivable from goods, services and facilities supplied in furtherance of the charity's charitable objects. It includes income from church retreats and other events and courses.

Investment income represents income generated by the charity's assets and includes income from bank interest.

c) **Expenditure**

Expenditure, including irrecoverable VAT, is recognised when it is incurred or, if earlier, when a legal or constructive obligation for a payment arises provided that it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

The charity makes grants to other institutions and individuals to further its charitable objectives. Grants payable are recognised as constructive obligations arise, which is generally when the charity expresses a commitment to the recipient that can be measured reliably and then only to the extent that any conditions associated with the grant are outside of the control of the charity.

The cost of raising funds is not significant and has not been separately disclosed.

Governance costs, which are included in expenditure on charitable activities but are identified separately in the notes to the accounts, includes costs associated with the independent examination of the financial statements, compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements and any other expenditure incurred on the strategic management of the charity.

d) **Fund accounting**

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects. Endowment funds are donations that are retained as capital in accordance with the donor's wishes. The nature of the restriction determines whether the endowments represent permanent endowments or expendable endowments.

e) **Tangible fixed assets**

Items purchased or donated for the charity's own use are capitalised when the cost of purchased items, or the fair value of donated items, is more than £250 and the item is expected to benefit the charity over more than one accounting period. Depreciation is charged on a straight line basis so as to write down the value of each asset to its estimated residual value (if any) over its expected useful economic life. To achieve this objective the following rates of depreciation are charged:

Freehold land	Is not depreciated (because it is not consumed by use)
Freehold buildings	Is not depreciated (because it is not consumed by use)
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	20% per annum reducing balance or 10% per annum straight line
Office equipment	over 3 years straight line
Motor vehicles	25% per annum reducing balance

The carrying values of tangible fixed assets are reviewed for impairment in periods when events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable.

f) **Leased assets**

Leases which do not transfer substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to the charity are classified as operating leases. Operating lease payments are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term (unless another systematic basis is more representative of use).

**FREE METHODIST CHURCH, FULWOOD**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**2 Accounting Policies (continued)**

g) Pension scheme arrangements

The charity operates defined contribution pension schemes for its employees. Obligations for contributions to these schemes are recognised as an expense when the liability arises. The assets of these schemes are held separately from those of the charity in independently administered funds.

h) Taxation

The charity has taken advantage of the various reliefs from taxation available to charities and no tax is payable on the charity's income.

i) Financial instruments

The charity's financial assets and financial liabilities all qualify as basic financial instruments, as defined by FRS102. Except for loans, creditors and debtors are measured at their expected settlement value (normally the amount of cash that the charity expects to pay or receive). The charity recognises liabilities for the principal of those loans that remains outstanding at the year end (i.e. the liabilities exclude any interest chargeable on the loans in future years).

j) Exemption from preparing a cashflow statement

The charity has taken advantage of an exemption conferred by the Charities SORP and has not prepared a cash flow statement.

k) Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

The trustees do not consider that there are any material sources of estimation or uncertainty at the balance sheet date that could result in a material adjustment to the carrying values of assets and liabilities in the next reporting period.

**3 Donations and legacies**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Donations of cash and similar	316,932	330,272
Legacies receivable	56,500	-
Gift aid recoverable	64,038	66,775
	<u>437,470</u>	<u>397,047</u>

**4 Income from charitable activities**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Church events and activities	15,676	4,778
Community outreach activities	14,710	21,154
Use of premises	7,138	5,811
Other income	1,441	-
	<u>38,965</u>	<u>31,743</u>

**5 Investment income**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Bank interest	5,301	5,593
	<u>5,301</u>	<u>5,593</u>

**FREE METHODIST CHURCH, FULWOOD**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**6 Charitable expenditure**

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>a Costs incurred directly on specific activities</b>		
Salaries, travel and expenses	186,768	199,229
Telephone and utilities	19,004	18,734
Cost of services	12,012	10,033
Catering	8,574	13,826
Childrens & youth ministry	12,941	10,784
Outreach ministry	15,351	8,285
Other ministry costs	23,221	2,836
Conference levy	12,108	13,071
Repairs & maintenance	19,328	15,424
Miscellaneous expenses	-	434
	<u>309,306</u>	<u>292,656</u>
Grants payable (note 6c)	83,016	169,696
	<u>392,322</u>	<u>462,352</u>

Costs incurred on Salaries, Travel and Expenses in the financial year ended 31 December 2023 have been restated due to the identification of an error in the financial statements for the prior year.

**b Costs incurred on support & administration**

Governance costs		
Independent examiner's fee	4,440	8,190
Other	570	-
	<u>5,010</u>	<u>8,190</u>
Office and administration	6,624	5,752
Subscriptions and professional fees	2,652	3,365
Bank fees and charges	1,550	1,158
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	22,705	23,681
Insurance	7,633	3,163
	<u>46,173</u>	<u>45,309</u>
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<u>438,496</u>	<u>507,661</u>

The fee payable to the independent examiner for preparing and examining the accounts was £4,440 (2023: £8,190).

**c Grants payable**

	Institutions £	Individuals £	2024 £
Grants for UK and overseas mission	66,736	8,908	75,644
Grants for the relief of poverty	1,080	-	1,080
	<u>67,816</u>	<u>8,908</u>	<u>76,724</u>

The comparatives for the previous year are as follows:

	Institutions £	Individuals £	2023 £
Grants for UK and overseas mission	137,956	4,277	142,233
Grants for the relief of poverty	18,943	-	18,943
	<u>156,899</u>	<u>4,277</u>	<u>161,176</u>

**FREE METHODIST CHURCH, FULWOOD**  
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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**6 Charitable expenditure (continued)**

The charity's principal grants to institutions comprised:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Kibogora	37,779	95,474
International Aid Trust	4,735	14,000
Christians Against Poverty	-	11,052
Overseas Missionary Fellowship	-	7,500
Pan de Vida	9,792	7,000
Tearfund	1,080	6,000
Open Doors	1,040	4,000
Cedar House	3,050	3,186
Preston Street Pastors	3,000	3,000
Sports Reach	2,000	2,000
Support Ukraine	-	1,801
Safe Families for Children	5,040	1,000
Grants to institutions for less than £1,000 each	300	886
	<u>67,816</u>	<u>156,899</u>

**7 Analysis of staff costs, the cost of key management personnel and trustee remuneration**

The average monthly number of employees during the year was 8 (2023: 11). Most of the charity's activities are carried out by volunteers.

No staff received salaries at a rate of more than £60,000 per annum.

The charity's key management comprise the trustees and the key staff named on the Charity Information page. Total employment benefits payable to key management for the year were as follows:

	Wages & salaries	Other employment benefits	Employer pension contributions	2024 £
Trustees:				
Rev. Ian Winter	46,899	-	3,752	50,651
Other members of key management				<u>67,973</u>
				<u>118,624</u>

The following amounts were payable in the previous year:

	Wages & salaries	Other employment benefits	Employer pension contributions	2023 £
Trustees:				
Rev. Ian Winter	44,342	-	3,547	47,889
Other members of key management				<u>69,895</u>
				<u>117,784</u>

Rev. Ian Winter served as the church's Senior Pastor and received the above payments for serving in that capacity, not for serving as trustees; these payments are permitted by the charity's governing document.



**FREE METHODIST CHURCH, FULWOOD**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**8 Tangible fixed assets**

	Land and buildings £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Office equipment £	Total 2024 £
Cost or valuation				
At 1 January 2024	1,813,757	370,208	11,465	2,195,430
Additions	6,600	6,994	-	13,594
At 31 December 2024	<u>1,820,357</u>	<u>377,202</u>	<u>11,465</u>	<u>2,209,024</u>
Accumulated depreciation				
At 1 January 2024	-	265,461	8,406	273,867
Charge for the year	-	21,881	824	22,705
At 31 December 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>287,342</u>	<u>9,230</u>	<u>296,572</u>
Net book value				
At 31 December 2024	<u>1,820,357</u>	<u>89,859</u>	<u>2,235</u>	<u>1,912,452</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>1,813,757</u>	<u>104,747</u>	<u>3,059</u>	<u>1,921,563</u>

The original Land and Church buildings were revalued and included in the accounts at valuation for insurance purposes as at 31 December 1997. All additions since that date have been included at cost. No information about original cost is available.

**9 Debtors**

	2024 £	2023 £
Gift aid recoverable	10,815	49,226
Other debtors	220	-
Prepayments and accrued income	14,883	3,393
	<u>25,917</u>	<u>52,619</u>

**10 Current asset investments**

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash equivalent deposits	170,000	-
	<u>170,000</u>	<u>-</u>

**FREE METHODIST CHURCH, FULWOOD**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
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**11 Cash at Bank and in Hand**

	2024	2023
		Restated
	£	£
Cash at bank with immediate access	292,546	389,858
Petty cash	113	565
	<u>292,659</u>	<u>390,422</u>

Cash at bank with immediate access as at 31 December 2023 has been restated following the identification of an error in the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

**12 Creditors: liabilities falling due within one year**

	2024	2023
		Restated
	£	£
Taxation and social security	3,594	10,137
Other creditors	5,527	641
Accruals	4,440	9,600
	<u>13,561</u>	<u>20,378</u>

Creditors owed for Taxation and Social Security as at 31 December 2023 has been restated following the identification of an error in the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

**13 Pension commitments**

During the year employer's pension contributions totalling £12,315 (2023: £15,616) were payable to defined contribution personal pension schemes. Pension contributions of £1,356 were owing at the balance sheet date (2023: £261).

**FREE METHODIST CHURCH, FULWOOD**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**14 Funds**

During the year the movements in the charity's funds were as follows:

	Opening balance 2024 £	Incoming resources 2024 £	Outgoing resources 2024 £	Transfers in the year 2024 £	Gains and losses 2024 £	Closing balance 2024 £
<i>Designated Funds</i>						
Development Fund	-	57,005	-	(13,594)	-	43,411
	-	57,005	-	(13,594)	-	43,411
<i>General Unrestricted Funds</i>	2,259,679	339,900	(331,978)	(23,396)	-	2,244,205
Total Unrestricted Funds	2,259,679	396,905	(331,978)	(36,990)	-	2,287,615
<i>Restricted Funds</i>						
Food Bank Community	1,359	-	-	-	-	1,359
Christians Against Poverty	20,439	12,163	(16,702)	7,000	-	22,900
Cedar House	-	53	(3,050)	3,040	-	43
Leaving Gifts	634	-	-	-	-	634
Anna Snalam	204	7,126	(8,908)	1,578	-	-
Kibogora	48,384	28,441	(37,954)	4,500	-	43,371
Pan de Vida	3,562	9,327	(9,807)	-	-	3,081
Craft Inspirations	2,376	-	-	-	-	2,376
India	1,775	-	-	-	-	1,775
Sierra Leone	4,602	-	(4,735)	133	-	-
Global Partnership	-	9,354	(11,376)	16,389	-	14,367
Kez Watkins	-	2,365	(2,355)	1,500	-	1,510
Visa Teams	-	16,003	(11,631)	2,850	-	7,222
Other small funds	1,213	-	-	-	-	1,213
	84,549	84,831	(106,517)	36,990	-	99,852
Aggregate of funds	2,344,227	481,736	(438,496)	-	-	2,387,467

**FREE METHODIST CHURCH, FULWOOD**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**14 Funds (continued)**

The transfers referred to above were made for the following reasons:

- a) Transfer of £13,594 from the **Development Fund** to the **General Fund** to reflect the acquisition of fixed assets during the year.
- b) Transfer of £3,040 from the **General Fund** to the **Cedar House Fund** to fund the church's support of the service.
- c) Transfer of £7,000 from the **General Fund** to the **Christians Against Poverty Fund** to support the church's partnership with CAP.
- d) Transfer of £4,500 from the **General Fund** to the **Kibogora Fund** to support the church's partnership with the project.
- e) Transfer of £2,850 from the **General Fund** to the **VISA Teams Fund** to support the annual trips overseas
- f) Transfer of £1,500 from the **General Fund** to the **Kez Watkins Fund** as the church's contribution to her work.
- h) Transfer of £18,100 from the **General Fund** to the **Global Partnership Fund** as the church's contribution to supporting partnerships locally and further afield.
- i) Transfer of £133 from the **Global Partnership Fund** to the **Sierra Leone Fund** to clear a year-end deficit. These funds share a similar purpose.
- j) Transfer of £1,578 from the **Global Partnership Fund** to the **Anna Snalam Fund** to clear a year-end deficit. These funds share a similar purpose.

**Analysis of net assets by fund**

The assets and liabilities of the various funds were as follows:

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>			2024 £
	General funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	
Tangible fixed assets	1,912,452	-	-	1,912,452
Debtors	21,060	-	4,857	25,917
Investments held as current assets	170,000	-	-	170,000
Cash at bank and in hand	154,254	43,411	94,995	292,659
Creditors falling due within one year	(13,561)	-	-	(13,561)
	<u>2,244,205</u>	<u>43,411</u>	<u>99,852</u>	<u>2,387,467</u>

**FREE METHODIST CHURCH, FULWOOD**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**14 Funds (continued)**

In the previous year the movements in the charity's funds were as follows:

	Opening balance 2023	Incoming resources 2023	Outgoing resources 2023	Transfers in the year 2023	Gains and losses 2023	Closing balance 2023 Restated
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Designated Funds</i>						
Development Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>General Unrestricted Funds</i>	2,311,689	299,196	(351,206)	-		2,259,679
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>2,311,689</b>	<b>299,196</b>	<b>(351,206)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,259,679</b>
<i>Restricted Funds</i>						
Food Bank Community	1,529	(170)	-	-	-	1,359
Christians Against Poverty	22,784	22,431	(24,776)	-	-	20,439
Cedar House	-	3,186	(3,186)	-	-	-
Leaving Gifts	1,709	5,914	(6,988)	-	-	634
Anna Snalam	-	4,340	(4,135)	-	-	204
Kibogora	64,997	79,094	(95,708)	-	-	48,384
Pan de Vida	(467)	11,029	(7,000)	-	-	3,562
Craft Inspirations	2,212	185	(21)	-	-	2,376
India	1,775	-	-	-	-	1,775
Sierra Leone	9,682	8,919	(14,000)	-	-	4,602
Other small funds	1,595	259	(641)	-	-	1,213
	105,816	135,188	(156,455)	-	-	84,549
<b>Aggregate of funds</b>	<b>2,417,505</b>	<b>434,383</b>	<b>(507,661)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,344,227</b>

**Analysis of net assets by fund**

In the previous year, the assets and liabilities of the various funds were as follows:

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>			
	General funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	2023 Restated
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	1,921,563	-	-	1,921,563
Debtors	40,573	-	12,046	52,619
Cash at bank and in hand	317,920	-	72,503	390,422
Creditors falling due within one year	(20,378)	-	-	(20,378)
	2,259,678	-	84,549	2,344,227

**FREE METHODIST CHURCH, FULWOOD**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**14 Funds (continued)**

The expenditure attributable to the General Fund for the year ended 31 December 2023 has been restated, along with the balance of net current assets as at 31 December 2023, following the identification of an error in the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The **Development Fund** is designated by the trustees for exceptional projects, such as further enhancements to the Fulwood site or church planting in another community.

The **Food Bank Community** a reserve of money that has been given from time to time to provide short term food relief (principally) to CAP clients who need emergency food help while CAP help to resolve their wider problems.

The **Christians Against Poverty Fund** reflects the church's long-standing partnership with CAP. It employs a worker (Linda McGuinness) to work on behalf of CAP with financially distressed clients within the local community. Occasionally, it holds gift days for funds to support Linda's costs. A surplus is retained in this fund to provide a robust buffer for these salary and other costs in the event of a downturn in giving.

The **Cedar House Fund** supports a counselling centre in Preston operated by Christians but providing services to anyone in need of help.

The **Leaving Gifts Fund** is made up of any money collected specifically as leaving gifts for staff, ministers or others when they move on from association with the church. Any balance in this fund should be transitory as we aim to pay out shortly after receipt.

The **Anna Snalam Fund** supports a previous church member who has moved on to become a full-time Christian worker in Wales. The church contributes to the cost of her work there.

The **Kibogora Fund** reflects the church's long-term relationship with Christian work in the Kibogora area of Rwanda. This started as support for the establishment of a hospital and progressed to include the development of a Christian polytechnic. The church supports the ongoing costs of both undertakings, with some of the gifting received being specifically targeted at supporting the training of Christian ministerial candidates, for whom there is no locally available financial support.

The **Pan de Vida Fund** supports a Christian charity based in Quito, Ecuador operating in the city and some other areas around the country. It is a charity registered in Ecuador and the USA. It provides food, health, education and support services to the poor of its region. It also assists people to establish small businesses and to become self-sufficient.

The **Sierra Leone Fund** supports the work of International Aid Trust in Sierra Leone.

The **Craft Inspirations Fund** supports the costs of running craft-based outreach activities within the church.

The **India Fund** has been used to support the work of a partner organisation in India.

The **Kez Watkins Fund** supports the work of a church member who is working with Youth With A Mission in Norway. The church is contributing to the cost of supporting her to do this work.

The **Global Partnership Fund** supports the church's giving to external charitable activities that are not part of any other specific named fund.

The **VISA Teams Fund** reflects the income and expenditure for the church teams sent out as 'Volunteers in Service Overseas' to work alongside our partner projects in other countries, typically once a year.

**FREE METHODIST CHURCH, FULWOOD**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**15 Transactions with related parties**

During the year the charity:

- a) received donations totalling £36,781 (2023: £42,500) from related parties (which includes trustees, any other members of key management and anyone closely connected to them).
- b) paid expenses totalling £1,299 (2023: £1,065) on behalf of the trustees in relation to insurance premiums incurred by the charity in respect of indemnity and travel insurance for the trustees whilst carrying out duties associated with being trustees or when undertaking employment duties not connected with serving as a trustee; no other expenses (2023: £nil) were paid to, for for, the trustees; reimbursements for expenses incurred when acting as agent for the charity or incurred when undertaking employment duties not connected with serving as a trustee are not included in this disclosure.

Except as disclosed in note 7 'Analysis of staff costs', there have been no other transactions with related parties during the year.

**FREE METHODIST CHURCH, FULWOOD**  
**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES WITH COMPARATIVES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

		<u>Unrestricted funds</u>				<u>Unrestricted funds</u>			
		General	Designated	Restricted	Total	General	Designated	Restricted	Total
		2024	2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023	2023
Note		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:</b>									
	3	295,635	57,005	84,831	437,470	261,860	-	135,188	397,047
	4	38,965	-	-	38,965	31,743	-	-	31,743
	5	5,301	-	-	5,301	5,593	-	-	5,593
<b>Total income and endowments</b>		<b>339,900</b>	<b>57,005</b>	<b>84,831</b>	<b>481,736</b>	<b>299,196</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>135,188</b>	<b>434,383</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>									
	6	331,978	-	106,517	438,496	351,206	-	156,455	507,661
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>331,978</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>106,517</b>	<b>438,496</b>	<b>351,206</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>156,455</b>	<b>507,661</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>7,922</b>	<b>57,005</b>	<b>(21,687)</b>	<b>43,240</b>	<b>(52,010)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(21,268)</b>	<b>(73,278)</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>		<b>(23,396)</b>	<b>(13,594)</b>	<b>36,990</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(15,474)</b>	<b>43,411</b>	<b>15,303</b>	<b>43,240</b>	<b>(52,010)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(21,268)</b>	<b>(73,278)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>									
Total funds brought forward		2,259,679	-	84,548	2,344,227	2,311,689	-	105,816	2,417,505
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>2,244,205</b>	<b>43,411</b>	<b>99,852</b>	<b>2,387,467</b>	<b>2,259,679</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>84,548</b>	<b>2,344,227</b>