

This has been a year of uncertainty.

In public life Covid has continued to affect most of us. Some like me have had the virus very mildly and many remain vulnerable to catching it. We have been blessed by the vaccine roll-out but even a milder illness can cast a long shadow. A year ago we thought we would gradually open up our lives again but progress has been in fits and starts. Now there are different threats. War in Ukraine has brought the fear of escalation, and a scale of migration unseen in my lifetime. Now the cost of living crisis is beginning to affect us all, and looks set to get worse in the coming months. The Christian Church has a role to come alongside people struggling with all these uncertainties and threats. I believe the gospel of God's love for all has continued to be preached at St Andrew's, and that our activities throughout the year have borne witness to this. This has not been affected by all the changing scenes of life. We have a gospel to proclaim.

There are a great many people to thank. Nearly everyone has taken some role in serving the church in these demanding times. It seems to me that people have worked harder and more conscientiously to carry out the church's worship and service. We will not be returning to the same old ways, and while some people embrace change, most of us find it disconcerting. In particular we have managed to transfer most meetings and publications online, and many have become accustomed to these new ways of working. After more than 2 years, "zoom" and "update" have entered our church's vocabulary.

The Newsletter is produced online and has still included a range of contributions from people with more and less access to technology. A special thank you to people who have read out updates and printed some Newsletters for the minority who can't access these things otherwise. We don't intend to exclude anyone.

Of course it is right to gather in person for worship, when we can, but it has been a bonus for those shielding, unwell or even at a distance, to join by zoom or Youtube. It seems appropriate to commit to offering this facility for the foreseeable future, but it requires personal skill and dedication, and the church has had to make a modest investment of funds for improvements to the wifi.

Café Church has gravitated to zoom, with good "attendance" and participation with audio-visual material, as was the original vision. But there is a danger of it becoming a closed group, so new members are always welcome to join the conversation.

Our Pastoral Visitors have worked in different ways to keep connection with our members and friends, and several PVs have increased their time commitment since Covid lockdowns. After the enforced hiatus, the flower arrangers are back too and much appreciated.

The Catering Team has been raring to go, to provide a hospitable place on Saturdays and visitors seem to be returning, although as with everything else this has been somewhat slower than anticipated. Unfortunately, due to the retirement of many faithful volunteers, we are not quite ready to offer this weekly.

Welcome Wednesdays was one of the first activities to start back and I'm pleased to say that this still seems to meet a need. There has been some turnover in the team of volunteers, but most people have been enjoying this experience, and appreciating time spent alongside one another, during quieter spells.

All through lockdown, and beyond, much has gone on behind the scenes, to maintain the property, and indeed to improve it. The finance and property administration is done by a very small number of people, working from home, and then attending church to meet contractors. The most recent Quinquennial Inspection praised the keeping of the building. Of course there is always going to be

work, as there is with any property, but it does seem, for once, that barring unforeseen emergencies, the demands of the building may be more manageable in the next period. Certainly the building was shown off to good effect during the recent Synod. Perhaps this is the right time to re-consider the way the church's maintenance can be monitored and managed, so there is continuing work for the Resources Committee.

Special thanks must go to the Stewards who all have other commitments in the life of the church – as well as busy lives to lead among their families, at work and in the community. This means that as well as having an overview of the church – which is the role of a steward – they are busy and dedicated people. They are a great asset to St Andrew's.

There is an unsettled feeling because several people have moved away from the area, and others from the church. We miss their presence and all their contributions, over many years. I hope we have had opportunity to tell them this. At this time St Andrew's is far from alone in experiencing this shift of personnel, as the deprivations of lockdown have caused many people to re-evaluate living far away from family. It is also important to point out that for the same reason, we have had some people move in to the area, and join the congregation. We need to embrace what these people bring with them, and to allow ourselves to be changed by them.

There have been some uncertainties in Circuit life. Our new Superintendent is currently facing disciplinary procedures, relating to events that happened before he came to South Worcestershire Circuit. This was completely unexpected and the process is outside the influence of anyone within the Circuit, or the District. This has its pressures, particularly for his churches, and for the other ministers. For an indeterminate period of time we have an acting superintendent, and a member of the team always absent.

Some people may be feeling apprehensive about the change of ministry at St Andrew's. Most of us have seen ministers come and go, and we recognise this is a strength of the Methodist system, that over a season, we are blessed by the varying gifts of the ministers and the innovations that fresh insights bring. I am certain that it is the right way forward for St Andrew's to have day to day ministry from a Deacon, and for formal oversight to be shared by the Presbyter for Bromyard Road and Ombersley Road. Those people who have met Deacon Corinne and her husband Adrian are particularly looking forward to her arrival. I can say that in recent weeks almost every conversation I have had with people outside the church and with groups and committees of the church, has mentioned Corinne! Over the next few weeks there is more to do to prepare everyone for this change. The Prayer Day (a morning, really) is planned to be a significant event towards this. I hope that many people in the congregation will feel able to take part in one or more sessions on that morning.

A review of my last year at St Andrew's would have to include the following. It has been a busy year, and my diary is very untidy, so please forgive me if this is not a comprehensive list. It comes in no particular order of importance or date!

It has been a year of special wedding anniversaries, diamond, golden, ruby and silver!

A time of ordinations and a local preacher recognition service.

The Baptism of Zak, with two more – the twins James and Ethan – to follow shortly.

The funerals of Win Eke, Brenda Campbell, Audrey Masters and Ian Bayliss.

The unexpected receipt of two legacies, from Joan and Lionel Wheat, and Frank and Marilynne Percival, which has replenished church reserves following significant building expenditure.

The new room booking of The Potter's House, Worcester, and a developing relationship with their leader Pastor Lawrence and his wife Milly.

A settled tenancy of the church flat, which has ensured a steady income.

A developing relationship in Café Church on zoom with Pastor Thomas Guenther, from Chemnitz, Germany, latterly sharing insights into their church's response to the war in Ukraine.

Regular leading of the music in worship by the Music Group, by the one remaining organist, Bronwen, and by the creative use of digital recordings and videos.

Zoom worship from home on Christmas morning, for the second time, and on a few other occasions during the Church calendar.

The monthly Prayer Fellowship, which transferred to zoom and has remained there, and the weekly Prayer Time, both well supported by busy people. And the opportunity offered for urgent prayer requests to be sent out by email.

Agreeing to close the bank account for St Andrew's Singers, but agreeing that it is still too soon to decide on their future.

Hosting most of the Church's business meetings on zoom, and often having 100 per cent attendance.

The Church Council had a constructive conversation and then voted by a majority to support The Methodist Conference's 2020 decision to allow same sex marriages to be held if local Trustees agree. The application to the Registrar General has been made.

Attending, along with others, Safeguarding courses and MWIB Meetings and fellowships.

Putting Viv, of Welcome Wednesdays, on a formal, but time-limited contract of employment. Since re-opening last June there has only been one week when we did not open. The model of a paid co-ordinator, with a team of volunteers has generally been successful.

Re-launch of St Andrew's as an Eco-Church, with some enthusiastic support so far. This is alongside the Circuit Eco-Group and the Worcester Green Churches Group bringing many denominations together in the city.

The two parallel Lent Groups, one on zoom and one at the church, which were very well-supported and appreciated, allowing participation according to individual circumstances.

A book launch to promote awareness of the Palestinian situation. And a Vigil for Palestine outside the Church.

Taking part in a Walk of Witness through the city centre, with other Church leaders, during COP26 and leading prayers from the balcony.

A Vigil for Ukraine outside the Church, at the beginning of the war, which was widely supported by the city and other circuit members.

For Worcestershire Inter Faith Forum, co-ordinating the Worcester Holocaust Memorial Commemoration at The Guildhall, involving a Survivor who was the speaker, and contributions from 7 secondary schools in the city, and the University.

Hosting at St Andrew's occasionally, and minute-taking regularly, zoom meetings of the Worcestershire Welcomes Refugees. An umbrella group of the local Welcomes Groups for Syrian and Afghan refugees.

Attendance at the ROC Conversation, bringing together Christians and community leaders from the city for consideration of how to Redeem Our Communities. This work is ongoing.

There was a lovely Garden Party, several summer walks, not rained off this year, and a couple of meals out.

The Passion Play in which I was privileged to act, but in which I am most proud of the generous contribution of time and facilities by St Andrew's on the day itself. This has been widely appreciated.

And last but not least hosting the recent District Synod, when a huge number of people were involved in preparing, hosting and clearing up, with the burden falling on St Andrew's.

I am aware that there are many people I have not spent enough time with, and that is probably my biggest regret. I feel I have been called into other areas of ministry, during my season with St Andrew's.

All sorts of things were planned or proposed, but didn't happen, due to the pandemic, or because the time wasn't right. I can say to Corinne there is no shortage of ideas for this Church and this City.

There may seem to be a shortage of volunteers, as people have changed their lifestyle during the lockdowns. Undoubtedly everyone is getting older (says she who is about to retire!) and many people within our church are generally in older age groups. There are however, lots of new ways of partnership working. This means that St Andrew's can contribute its building, and its open and generous attitudes, and willingness to continue to serve the needs of the city, while others are paid and grant-funded to actually provide the services needed. There is great need out there and I trust that after such uncertainty, God will open up many new opportunities.

Rev Helen Caine

May 2020

## THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

St Andrews Methodist Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2021

**South West Worcestershire**

**Circuit**

**Circuit no**

**05/16**

**Registered Charity - Charity Registration number**

If not a registered charity **Her 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 Helen Caine

Church Stewards:

Treasurer:

Mrs Pat Lander

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	<b>RECEIPTS</b>	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	65,413	6	65,419	34,847
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	77		77	550
a4	Lettings	22,372		22,372	17,591
a5	Other receipts	3,731	15	3,746	9,880
a6	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>91,593</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>91,614 (a7)</b>	<b>62,868</b>

SECTION B					
b1	<b>PAYMENTS</b>				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	40,273		40,273	39,040
b3	Donations	200			3,254
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	14,440		14,440	33,886
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	14,595		14,595	13,165
b6	Local Salaries				
b7	Other payments	2,929		2,929	5,384
b8	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>72,437</b>		<b>72,437 (b9)</b>	<b>94,729</b>

SECTION C							
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	19,156	21	19,177		(31,861)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		36,883	42,113	78,996	(c6)	110,437
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	56,039	42,134	98,173		78,576
c4	Transfers and adjustments					(c7)	420
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	56,039	42,134	98,173	(c8)	78,996 (c6)

SECTION D					
<b>FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS</b>					
d	<b>(these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)</b>			£	£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year			2	1,077
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations			2,019	1,899
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations			2,021	2,974
d4	<b>BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID</b>	<b>(d1+d2-d3)</b>		£ -	2

## 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 2021 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	Catering	45	354	(309)		2,094	1,785
e2	St Andrews Singers					150	150
e3	Flower Fund	396	244	152		950	1,102
e4							
e5							
e6							
e7							
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	441	598	(157)		3,194 (e11)	3,037 (e12)
e9	Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	91,614 (a7)	72,437 (b9)	19,177	(c7)	78,996 (c6)	98,173 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	92,055	73,035	19,020		82,190 (x)	101,210 (y)
		TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward

## SECTION F

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

## CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2021

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	19,164	20,644
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	24,789	42,437
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	35,043	35,092
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	78,996 (c6)	98,173 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	3,194 (e11)	3,037 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	82,190 (x)	101,210 (y)

## SECTION G

## OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 1 September 2020	At 31 August 2021
g1 Investments (include Endowments)		
g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	5,514,504	5,514,504
g3 Other Assets	146,751	146,751
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)

## Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2021 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.....

Name and address of treasurer: Mrs Pat Lander

### Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 were presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on

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

Name of the Chair of the meeting: Rev Helen Caine      Date

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

St Andrews Methodist Church

### Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Andrews Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2020 set out on pages 1 to 4. 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 , **St Andrews Methodist Church** ..... No .....

### 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/have not\* 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 ..... **B. E. DRAIN**

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ..... **FCCA**

Name of firm (where appropriate) .....

Address .....

..... Post Code .....

Date ..... **6/1/22** .....

\* delete or circle as appropriate

**THE METHODIST CHURCH**  
**STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS**

St Andrews Methodist Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2021

South West Worcestershire

Circuit

Circuit no

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Name of the Chair of the meeting: Rev Helen Caine      Date

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Name of independent examiner ..... **B. E. DRAIN**

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ..... **FCCA**

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