

Charity Number: 514361

**GREAT ECCLESTON FREE
METHODIST CHURCH**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST DECEMBER 2023**

GREAT ECCLESTON FREE METHODIST CHURCH

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GREAT ECCLESTON FREE METHODIST CHURCH
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

Legal and administrative information

Principal Address:	Great Eccleston Free Methodist Church Hall Lane Great Eccleston Preston PR3 0XN
Governing Document:	Trust Deed sealed on 21 April 1983 as amended by scheme dated 9 March 2000, this makes all members of the Official Board (now known as the Church Leadership Team) of Great Eccleston Free Methodist Church Trustees.
Objects of the Charity:	The furtherance of the religious and other charitable work of the Free Methodist Church of North America (United Kingdom District).
Specific Investment Powers:	The Church has a single, General Fund, deposit account with Virgin Money. During the year 2023 two bank accounts were held by the Church: <i>General fund current account-</i> Santander UK plc. <i>General fund deposit account-</i> Virgin Money
Bankers:	Santander UK plc Customer Service Centre Bootle L30 4GB Virgin Money Savings Operations Jubilee House Gosforth Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4PL
Independent Examiner:	CWR Chartered Accountants, 20 Mannin Way Lancaster Business Park Caton Road Lancaster LA1 3SW

GREAT ECCLESTON FREE METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

Trustees and Governance

The trustees legally responsible for the control and management of the charity during 2023 were as follows:
(All trustees acted for the whole of 2023).

Rev. Stephen Dunn	(Chairman)
Miss Alison Groves	(Secretary)
Mrs Colleen Halsall	
Mrs Christine E Kelsall	(Treasurer)
Mr. Christopher Matthews	
Mr. Robert Tomkins	(Church Delegate and Vice Chairman)

Trustee selection method: Trustees are nominated by Members of the Society of the Great Eccleston Free Methodist Church. Those nominated are then confirmed or selected by secret ballot of Society Members at an Annual Society Meeting (ASM).

Charity's Custodian Trustees: Assets are held by the Trustees of the Church (the Trustees listed above.)

Activities and Achievements

The Great Eccleston Free Methodist Church is part of a worldwide network of "Free Methodist" churches and one of a number of Free Methodist Churches in the United Kingdom Conference. Each Church is an individual charity with its own Charity Document while the Spiritual ethos is laid down in the Free Methodist Book of Discipline.

The vision statement of Great Eccleston Free Methodist Church is 'To be a vibrant, multi-generational, Spirit-filled community of faith, centered on Jesus and sharing Him with others well.' Our purpose statement 'To Love God and Love People'.

We seek to live out our vision with an aim to achieve the following:

- Points of connection with every age group of society (John 4 v 1 to 30)
- Every member of the church able to attend a connect group and prayer meeting (John 15 and Hebrew 10 v 24)
- Building Community, with village life being central (Matthew 28 v 19 and 20)
- Sharing hospitality and welcome with generosity (Mark 12 v 31)
- Every member of the church using their God given gifts in service within the church (1 Corinthians 12 v 12-31)
- A new worship centre (Isaiah 54 v 2)

Throughout the year we held the following regular events in addition to Sunday morning worship and Young Church (previously called Sunday School):

- Tiddlers (parent and toddlers group)
- Kidz Club (school years 1 to 4)
- Kidz Club Plus (school years 5 and above)
- Connect Groups (for friendship, discussion, and encouragement as we connect together)

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

- Free weekly Community Coffee Morning
- The Orchards Church Community Garden Project meeting twice a week (a place for people to grow both physically and spiritually)
- Netball Team (part of Wednesday evening SportsReach league)
- Prayer and Praise twice a month on Sunday evenings.

We have held several regular events across the community for the general public benefit:

- As part of the annual Great Eccleston Agricultural Show in July this year we hosted a tent providing a rest stop, children's craft activities, balloon art creations and displays of church activities.
- Messy Church craft-based events for young families celebrated Easter, the King's Coronation, Harvest and Christmas.
- Over the Autumn an Alpha Course was held.

We have also sought to care for the local bereaved, sick and those going through difficult times by our flower, and visitation ministries. At Christmastime, each home within the local community received a Christmas invitation to welcome them to join us for our Christmas events.

Throughout 2023 Steve Dunn has continued to serve as full time lead pastor.

We are thankful to God for His continued provision of gifts, tithes and offerings for the work at Great Eccleston, the support of ministries and charities in the United Kingdom and across the world.

The Church benefits from many voluntary hours and unclaimed out of pocket expenses contributed by a significant number of people. It would be impossible to place a value on these gifts in kind for which the Trustees are extremely grateful.

GREAT ECCLESTON FREE METHODIST CHURCH
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

The attached Financial Statements show the Church's financial position at the end of 2023 which the Trustees consider to be sound.

Policies


Reserve Policy: That the balance of the Church's General fund is to be maintained so as sufficient to provide cover for 3 months typical expenditure – with this in mind the minimum reserve is currently set at £20,000.

Investments Selection Policy: A range of Building Society and Bank accounts available to charities, and therefore, tax free for tax exempt charities, were considered by the Official Board of the Church. Those chosen were those giving the highest rate of interest.

Signature and Declaration

Declaration: I declare, in my capacity of charity trustee, that:

- the trustees have approved the report above; and
- have authorised me to sign it on their behalf.

Signature: 

Full Name: Rev Stephen Dunn

Position: Pastor and Chair of the Church Leadership Team

Date: ...29/09/2024

GREAT ECCLESTON FREE METHODIST CHURCH

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF GREAT ECCLESTON FREE METHODIST CHURCH

Year ended 31st December 2023

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of the Great Eccleston Free Methodist Church ('the charity') for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').


I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements 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.


Phillip Dennison ACA FCCA
Independent Examiner

CWR Chartered Accountants
20 Mannin Way
Lancaster Business Park
Caton Road
Lancaster
LA1 3SW

GREAT ECCLESTON FREE METHODIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
YEAR END 31ST DECEMBER 2023


	Note	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total Funds For the Year Ended 31 December 2023	Total Funds For the Year Ended 31 December 2022
		General	Designated			
		£	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources						
Generated Funds						
Voluntary Income:						
Tithes & Offerings (including Gift Aid)	1	34,290	-	-	34,290	28,092
Income Tax Recoverable (Gift Aid)	1	4,286	-	-	4,286	3,512
Donations		520	-	-	520	2,240
Legacies		-	-	-	-	-
Gifts for Specific Purposes		-	1,045	-	1,045	991
Gain on disposal of Furniture		-	-	-	-	70
Investment Income:						
Bank Interest		354	-	-	354	442
Grazing Rent - Lodge Farm		-	7,561	-	7,561	7,489
Rent - Rehoboth		-	11,400	-	11,400	7,800
Rent - Great Eccleston Lodge		-	14,400	-	14,400	12,412
Charitable Activities						
Football Team Income		-	-	-	-	-
Total Incoming Resources		39,450	34,406	-	73,856	63,048
Resources Expended						
Charitable Expenditure						
Charitable Activities	2	81,914	578	-	82,492	66,851
Governance Costs	12	1,890	-	-	1,890	1,926
Other	3	-	5,438	-	5,438	20,830
Total Resources Expended		83,804	6,016	-	89,820	89,607
Transfer Between Funds	15	7,301	(7,301)	-	-	-
Net Movements in Funds		(37,053)	21,089	-	(15,964)	(26,559)
Reconciliation of Funds						
Balances Brought Forward 1st January 2023		950,207	7,301	-	957,508	984,067
Balances Carried Forward 31st December 2023		<u>913,154</u>	<u>28,390</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>941,544</u>	<u>957,508</u>

GREAT ECCLESTON FREE METHODIST CHURCH

BALANCE SHEET
YEAR END 31ST DECEMBER 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed Assets			
Land and Buildings	4	870,880	890,880
Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment	5	3,852	5,136
Motor Vehicles	5	1,615	2,153
		876,347	898,169
Current Assets			
Debtors and Prepayments	6	11,003	7,914
Cash at Bank		56,814	53,956
Cash in Hand		-	-
		67,817	61,870
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	7	(2,620)	(2,531)
Net Current Assets		65,197	59,339
Net Assets		941,544	957,508
Funds			
Unrestricted Funds:			
General Fund		36,807	52,038
Fixed Asset Fund		876,347	898,169
Designated Fund	15	28,390	7,301
Restricted Funds	8	-	-
Total Funds		941,544	957,508

These accounts were approved by the trustees on the 25/04/2024 and signed on their behalf by:


.....
Rev S Dunn

The notes on pages 10 to 15 form part of these accounts

GREAT ECCLESTON FREE METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR END 31ST DECEMBER 2023

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting basis

The 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 (FRS102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below.

Going Concern

The Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

Funds

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the Trustees & Church Leadership Team are responsible in law.

Unrestricted funds are those available to the Trustees and Church Leadership Team for general use without restriction, in furtherance of the charity's objectives.

Designated Funds (unrestricted) are those, where donors have expressed a preference, without imposing a trust, or unrestricted funds set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes, details of which are given in note 15.

Restricted Funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund. Restricted funds are detailed in note 8.

No accounts of informal gatherings of church members are included, as these are not under the direct control of the Church Leadership Team.

Incoming Resources

Tithes and Offerings are recognised when received by or on behalf of the Church. Income under gift aid is recognised only when received, and income tax recoverable is calculated on income actually received.

Gifts in Kind

The church benefits from many voluntary hours and unclaimed out of pocket expenses contributed by a large number of people. It would be impossible to place a value on these gifts in kind for which we are extremely grateful.

GREAT ECCLESTON FREE METHODIST CHURCH

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR END 31ST DECEMBER 2023**

ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Freehold Land and Buildings

The church buildings have been included at their insurance valuation at 1/1/97.

Land and buildings at Lodge Farm, Hall Lane, Great Eccleston, have been included at probate valuation at 15 September 2005. Renovations and alterations to Lodge Farm are included at cost.

Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment

Assets were valued by the Trustees at 1/1/97. Later additions are at cost, with items under £500 being written off in year of purchase.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of the asset as follows:

Land and Buildings	-	Nil
Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment	-	25% Reducing Balance
Motor Vehicles	-	25% Reducing Balance

Governance Costs

Governance costs include costs of the preparation and examination of the statutory accounts.

Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged in the statement of financial activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

Funds accounting

Funds held by the charity are:

Unrestricted general funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds - these are funds which can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions apply when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. Further details of the purpose of each fund are included in the note to the financial statements.

GREAT ECCLESTON FREE METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR END 31ST DECEMBER 2023

1. Income Tax Recoverable

Income Tax recoverable includes a debtor of £7,032 in respect of tax to be claimed on gift aid for the 2022 to 2023 financial years.

2. Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total	Total
	General	Designated		For the year	For the year
				ended 31 December 2023	ended 31 December 2022
£	£	£	£	£	
Pastor Stipend	37,077	-	-	37,077	35,860
Church Worker	-	-	-	-	22
Manse running costs	677	-	-	677	621
Church running costs	27,425	-	-	27,425	10,201
Minibus expenses	1,845	-	-	1,845	2,578
Visiting preachers expenses	760	-	-	760	515
Outreach and Evangelism	1,938	-	-	1,938	2,352
Giving and donations	4,232	578	-	4,810	5,982
Childrens and youth work	1,882	-	-	1,882	1,798
Depreciation of fixed assets	1,822	-	-	1,822	2,429
Conference levy	2,296	-	-	2,296	2,679
Printing and stationery	205	-	-	205	769
Legal fees	-	-	-	-	-
Travel expenses and accomodation	1,755	-	-	1,755	1,045
	81,914	578	-	82,492	66,851

3. Other Charitable Expenditure

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total	Total
	General	Designated		For the year	For the year
				ended 31 December 2023	ended 31 December 2022
£	£	£	£	£	
Lodge Farm Expenses	-	1,528	-	1,528	3,555
Rehoboth Expenses	-	3,910	-	3,910	17,275
	-	5,438	-	5,438	20,830

4. Freehold Land and Buildings

	2023	2022
	£	£
<u>Church Buildings</u>		
Hall Lane, Great Eccleston (At Insurance Cover Valuation 01/01/1997)	206,000	206,000
<u>Land and Buildings</u>		
Lodge Farm, Hall Lane, Great Eccleston (At Probate Value 15/09/2005)	500,000	500,000
Alterations at Cost	201,880	201,880
Disposal of Garage	(17,000)	(17,000)
Disposal of Parcel of Land	(20,000)	
	870,880	890,880

GREAT ECCLESTON FREE METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR END 31ST DECEMBER 2023

5. Other Tangible Assets

	Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment £	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
Cost			
At 1st January 2023	20,416	7,594	28,010
Additions	-	-	-
At 31st December 2023	20,416	7,594	28,010
Depreciation			
At 1st January 2023	15,280	5,441	20,721
Charge in period	1,284	538	1,822
At 31st December 2023	16,564	5,979	22,543
Net Book Values			
At 1st January 2023	5,136	2,153	7,289
At 31st December 2023	3,852	1,615	5,467

Church fixtures, fittings and equipment were valued by the Board and Trustees at 1st January 1997. Later additions are included at cost.

6. Debtors and Prepayments

	2023 £	2022 £
Tax Refund on Gift Aid	7,032	5,869
Prepayments	3,907	1,981
Other Debtors	64	64
	11,003	7,914

7. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Accruals	2,620	2,531
Other Creditors	-	-
	2,620	2,531

8. Restricted Funds Movements

	1 January 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	31 December 2023
Football Team	-	-	-	-	-
Gift for Service Recording Ministry	-	-	-	-	-
Gift for Specific Purposes	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-

The balances at 1st January 2023 and 31 December 2023 are held in the Church bank accounts, as described in the Balance Sheet.

GREAT ECCLESTON FREE METHODIST CHURCH

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR END 31ST DECEMBER 2023**

9. Staff Emoluments

	Pastor	Church Worker	Cleaners	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Gross Salary	35,404	-	1,248	36,652
Employer's National Insurance	-	-	-	-
Pension Contributions	875	-	-	875
Life Insurance	798	-	-	798
	37,077	-	1,248	38,325

Total remuneration for the year amounted to £38,325 (2022: £36,937)

This was payable to the pastor and cleaners, this includes pension contributions, Permanent Health Insurance and Sabbatical costs.

The average number of paid staff for the year was 2 (2022: 3)

No employees earned over £60,000 in the year

10. Trustees Remuneration and Expenses

The trustees of the Church include the Pastor under the terms of the Trust Scheme sealed on 21 April 1983 as amended by the scheme date 9 March 2000. The aggregate remuneration paid by the Church totalled £37,077, made up of stipend, national insurance and pension contributions. In addition, payments totalling £1,598 were made to the Pastor for the reimbursement of travelling expenses. Authority for these payments is included in the Trust Deed.

No other remuneration or benefits were paid during the year.

11. Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	Tangible Fixed Assets	Net Current Assets	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds	876,347	65,197	941,544
Restricted Funds	-	-	-
	876,347	65,197	941,544

12. Independent Examiners' Fee

Amount payable for the year was £1,890 including VAT.

13. Control

The charity is controlled by the Board of Trustees (Currently known as the Church Leadership Team)

GREAT ECCLESTON FREE METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR END 31ST DECEMBER 2023

14. Taxation

Great Eccleston Free Methodist Church is a registered charity number 514361. All the charity's income is applied to its charitable objectives and the charity is, therefore, exempt under current legislation from most forms of taxation.

15. Designated Funds

During 2006 the Church received a legacy from the late Mrs M Porter consisting of the farm land and buildings known as Lodge Farm, Hall Lane, Great Eccleston. The legacy has been included in the accounts at probate value. In accordance with the donor's wishes, the Trustees have decided that income from Lodge Farm will be set aside to meet expenses of that property in the first instance. The expenses for 2022 include electricity and council tax costs for Reheboth. Any surplus will be available for the general purposes of the Church. At a CLT meeting held in December 2012 it was agreed that any surplus from the balance of the Lodge Farm designated fund at the previous year end should be transferred into the general fund during the next financial year. The surplus for 2022 (£7,301) has been transferred in this accounting year.
