



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1 September 2024 **Period start date** **To** 31 August 2025 **Period end date**

Charity name: All Saints Methodist Church Abingdon

Charity registration number: 1184115

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>The purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document, the Methodist Church Act 1976 (clause 4) are as follows:</p> <p>The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been since the date of union the advancement of –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church; (b) any charitable purpose for the time being of any connexional, district, circuit, local or other organisation of the Methodist Church; (c) any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution being a society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church; (d) any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church. <p>The Mission Statement of All Saints states that we seek to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Share our faith in worship and study;</i> • <i>Reflect Christ's accepting love in friendship and caring;</i> • <i>Help each other face any difficulties and doubts;</i> • <i>Explore together what it means to be God's people in today's world.</i>
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision of public acts of worship open to members of the church and local community. Promotion of Christianity through staging events and services open to all who wish to attend. • The provision of a sacred place (a building) for prayer, contemplation and

		<p>spiritual exploration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The teaching of Christianity, exploration of faith and providing nurture for individuals through sermons, courses and group activities. • Prayer as a Church – recent initiatives include a prayer tree in the lobby (where anyone can add prayer requests), a dedicated prayer corner in the main Church, a what’s app prayer group and a monthly ‘in person’ prayer meeting. • Pastoral work including visiting and supporting the sick and bereaved among the congregation. • The provision of youth activities open to the local community. • Promoting the whole mission of the Church (and aiding social cohesion) through activities for older people, parents and children, and other specific needs groups. New mission initiatives include a Friday coffee morning open to church members and the wider community. There is also a new Monday coffee morning to which participants in one of our user groups of the church offering exercise classes for older people are warmly invited. • The provision of hospitality and support for vulnerable people. • Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas financially, with prayer, appeals and fund-raising events, and in some cases with volunteering by individuals. • Letting the premises to a variety of church, charitable, community groups and individuals for events, concerts, celebrations etc. • Providing use of the premises for free to local guiding and scout groups who provide activities for young people.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	<p>The Trustees have confirmed at the Church Council held on 5 February 2026 that:</p> <p><i>The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Commission in exercising their powers or duties.</i></p>

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Saints makes donations to Methodist Church funds and other organisations that have been supported regularly for a number of years. These are budgeted for, with a cap based on a proportion of

		<p>budgeted congregational giving and letting income, and reviewed for affordability. The overall charitable giving budget is agreed by Church Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the year, a working party reviewed the policy on making donations for 2025-26. For the current year, budgeted charitable donations will be the sum of 5% of income (meaning collections plus gift aid plus letting income) and £500. This amount will be split between a smaller list of 12 charities regularly supported by All Saints in the past. This recommendation was subsequently approved by Church Council.
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	N/A
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	<p>Many congregational members volunteer for All Saints in different capacities, including the governance of the church as stewards, Church Council and committee members. Others support worship in church services and fellowship/refreshments after church services, running house groups, prayer and worship groups. Others support the maintenance and general running of the church as well as general fellowship.</p>
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
<p>Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.</p>	Para 1.20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In September 2024, we welcomed a new Minister, Rev Georgina Bondzi-Simpson. • The Church Council continue to consider the future direction of the Church, under the guidance of our new minister, in light of reduced numbers of ministers in the wider Circuit. • There is a renewed focus on mission with workshops being held in the year by Selina Nesbitt as well as all church discussions. This work continues. • Prayer as a Church has been enhanced through a prayer tree, prayer corner, what's app group and monthly 'in person'

		<p>prayer meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite a small stewardship team in the period, the stewardship team have diligently prepared a safe and stimulating worship environment alongside the welcome stewards that support on a Sunday morning and have also taken on responsibility for property matters with the support of church members as Property Action no longer meets formally. Key property projects included the completion of the sound system upgrade (funded from generous bequests received in 2023-24). The Church Council have agreed to the replacement of the boiler due to old age. This will safeguard continuity of warmth for the congregation and Church user groups. • Throughout the year, an organist has accompanied services once a month, using funds from the restricted living legacy. Pianists and the Music Group also frequently lead our music in worship. • All Saints has continued to closely support charities through both direct giving and congregational giving. Contributions towards the Methodist Church and other charities regularly supported by the Church were made and events for fundraising for other charities held. During the period the Church continued to support Abingdon Foodbank with a donation and food and toiletries donated by the congregation as part of initiatives to support the Anti-Poverty Charter. • All Saints has continued to support community groups, with an increasing number of local organisations making regular use of the Church premises. • All Saints has expanded its links with the community by establishing two new coffee mornings. These include a Friday coffee morning open to church members and the wider community. There is also a new Monday coffee morning to which participants in one of our user groups of the church offering exercise classes for older people are warmly invited
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See above.
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Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly and monthly contributions from members and the congregation together with letting income aim to cover the main operational expenses, including the circuit assessment, operational expenditure and routine property maintenance. • Fundraising events are generally appeals for external organisations. • All Saints has received generous bequests totalling £5,000 in 2024-25 (and £14,663 in 2023-24). A further bequest of just under £1,000 was received in 2025-26. • However, given a fall in congregational giving in 2023-24 and continuing operational costs, as we sadly lost church members, there was concern over a large budgeted shortfall in 2024-25. A Gift day raised £6,520 (or £7,888 including related Gift Aid). Some church members have also kindly reviewed their regular giving. We are grateful to church members for their response and generosity. • See also the Financial Review below.
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investments are held centrally by the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church.
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main ongoing source of income is through offerings, including Sunday collections and donations by regular bank standing orders which need to support largely fixed costs. All Saints are very fortunate with the continued generosity of Church members despite the sad loss of several members in recent years. • As noted above, in response to concerns over a budgeted shortfall for 2024-25, the congregation generally responded to the Gift Day appeal raising £7,888 (including gift aid) and a number of Church members increased regular giving.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collections for the year totalled £55,183 (2023/ 24 £51,948). The level of bank standing orders increased to £43,715 (2023/ 24 £42,475), having fallen 6% in the previous year, and the level of envelope giving increased 17% to £9,338 (2023/ 24 £7,968), having fallen 35% in the previous year. Loose cash increased to £2,130 (2023/ 24 £1,505). The annual amount recovered through gift aid on the Sunday collections was £11,943 (2023/ 24 £12,692). The total for these donations and the associated gift aid was up 4% to £67,126 (2023/ 24 £64,641), having fallen 11% in the previous year. Both the July and August 2025 gift aid claims were received post year-end (usually only the August gift aid claim). • Bequests of £5,000 (2023/ 24 £14,663) were received in the year and are held locally, in accordance with a direction from TMCP. A further bequest of just under £1,000 was received in October 2025. These amounts are held in the Deposit Fund at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which earns interest. The 2023/24 bequests have been used to part fund the sound system (total costs £17,677 over 2023/24 and 2024/25). Other memorable donations of £1,050 (2023/ 24 £100) were also received. • The other main source of income is lettings to community groups. Lettings income totalled £13,824 (2023/24 £14,513; 2022/ 23 £18,408). The fall over the past couple of years is attributable mainly to the fact that pre-school moved its premises after December 2023. However, lettings from new hirers have shielded the impact. • There was an increase in interest income to £3,037 (2023/ 24 £2,519) reflecting increased funds despite falling interest rates. • The largest item of operational expenditure is the Circuit assessment of £50,759 (2023/ 24 £50,512). Other operational costs totalled £7,877 (2023/ 24 £8,494). The overall reduction in operational costs reflects a significant fall in independent examiner costs following a change of firm, offset by increases in other cost categories, including the cost of the administrator and one-off spending on noticeboards, music stands and small furniture.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance expenditure of £18,230 (2023/ 24 £18,303) was incurred. £60 garden waste costs have been reclassified to utilities in prior year, previously shown as repairs and maintenance. Maintenance expenditure included £11,784 to complete the upgrade of the sound system (2023/ 24 £5,892 initial spend on the sound system and £3,960 hall redecoration). These amounts were part funded by bequests. Otherwise, costs fell, with generally lower costs of services/parts for fire protection, electrical and gas safety/boiler checks. • Cleaning costs fell to £5,100 (2023/ 24 £5,823), with lower hours required after pre-school left in December 2023. • Utilities expenditure and insurance fell to £6,477 (2023/ 24 £8,554). This welcome fall was attributable to lower energy costs reversing the rise in utility costs in the prior year. In fact, total utility costs are lower than in 2022/ 23. • The level of ongoing income has enabled All Saints to continue to donate to central Methodist funds and other charities. In 2024/ 25, giving was £6,606 (2023/ 24 £6,248) with £2,946 (2023/ 24 £4,196) to Methodist Church funds and affiliated organisations and £3,661 (2023/ 24 £2,052) other donations to charitable organisations regularly supported by the church. The increased proportion of donations to non-Methodist charities reflects the fact that the circuit assessment includes a contribution to the Methodist Church Fund, so the amounts paid directly by the church were reduced. The amounts to non-Methodist Church charities also included £1,134 relating to 2023/24 budgeted allocations. • In addition to these donations, £2,273 (2023/ 24 £1,925) has been raised and £2,282 (2023/ 24 £1,855) disbursed for external organisations through appeals and events. • The Church achieved a surplus of £8,419 (2023/ 24 £5,035). The Church internal organisations made a surplus of £176 (2023/ 24 £28 deficit). Just Women remains active, meeting regularly and holding speaker events. • Church funds of £102,146 (2023/ 24 £93,727) together with funds of Church internal organisations of £290 (2023/ 24 £114) totalled £102,436 (2023/ 24 £93,841). These are held predominantly
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		<p>in bank accounts or in deposit funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church or Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) and £219 (2023/ 24 £43) in loose cash held by internal organisations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restricted funds – the living legacy of £13,150 (2023/ 24 £13,166) increased by allocated interest income net of organist fees charged to this reserve. This donation is restricted for specific use, to support and enrich the worship life of the church (and not for recurrent expenditure and maintenance). • The amounts available in the Richard Cox bequest, which is unrestricted, totalled £9,712 (2023/ 24 £9,299) with the accretion due to interest income. The Church Council has previously decided that £5,000 should be retained for future Mission Initiatives.
<p>Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held</p>	<p>Para 1.22</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reserves policy approved by the Church Council is that retained funds (unrestricted reserves), excluding the Richard Cox Bequest (currently £9,712), should not exceed 9 months expenditure and that there should be a minimum reserves level of £30,000. Action will be needed to reduce discretionary donations or raise funds if reserves fall below that level. The unrestricted reserves of £79,284 on this basis represented around 10.5 months of 2024/ 25 actual expenditure and 11.5 months of 2025/ 26 budgeted expenditure (which exclude the costs of a boiler replacement which may be implemented in 2025/ 26). • Restricted reserves comprise mainly the living legacy of £13,150 – which supports worship and is being used to fund organist costs. The Church Council has previously decided that £5,000 of the Richard Cox bequest should be used for mission activities. • Consideration of the adequacy of reserves is also informed by the levels of expected capital expenditure, the expectation of continued cost-inflation (and volatility) on operational costs which are difficult to reduce. On the income side, there is greater volatility in letting income which has reduced in recent years, although there is now a broader group of hirers. Moreover, with an older congregation, there remains unpredictability over the level of future giving and it is expected that in the

		<p>medium term, outgoings will exceed incoming resources on an annual basis. The surpluses in 2024/ 25 and 2023/ 24 have arisen due to receipts from bequests, memorable donations and the gift day. In their absence, there would have been deficits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reserves are held to safeguard against unforeseen expenditure, this can be the case particularly in respect of property costs, and the impact of inflation, particularly on the level of circuit assessment, energy costs, administrator costs and cleaning costs (with energy costs expected to remain volatile). In the next year or so, it will be necessary to replace the boiler, with an estimated cost of between £9,000 and £10,000. It is hoped that the costs will be partly defrayed if successful in grant applications but a net reduction in reserves is anticipated. • Church members have continued to be generous in their giving throughout 2024/ 25 and have responded very generously to a Gift Day held in December 2024 raising £7,888 including gift aid as well as increasing congregational giving. The Church has received just over £20,000 bequests since 1 October 2023 (of which £14,000 have already been utilised to fund property-related projects). These amounts are held locally at the interest-bearing deposit fund of the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church, as permitted by a direction from TMCP.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	<p>At 31 August 2025, Church funds include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £88,996 (2023/ 24 80,561) (unrestricted) • £13,150 (2023/ 24 £13,166) (restricted) • £102,146 (2023/ 24 £93,727) (total) <p>Funds of Church organisations (restricted) total £290 (2023/ 24 £114). The unrestricted reserves are £79,284 (2023/ 24 £71,262) excluding the Richard Cox bequest.</p>
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	N/A

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

<p>The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)</p>	<p>Para 1.47</p>	<p>Weekly and monthly offerings from members and adherents, tax recovery from gifts, lettings and donations. Fund raising events (although these are usually for appeals for external organisations). A Gift Day was held in December 2024 to raise funds for the Church. Occasional bequests. Grants for building projects (when applicable).</p>
<p>Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted</p>	<p>Para 1.46</p>	<p>Investments are held centrally by the Methodist Church and investment policies are laid down by the Methodist Conference as carried out by the Central Finance Board. All Saints holds funds in its own bank accounts. At 31 August 2025, funds of £29,164 (2023/ 24 £28,848) are held in All Saints own bank account. This bank account can be used for online payments. The Central Finance Board deposit fund amounts to £63,203 (2023/ 24 £55,580). The Richard Cox Bequest monies, totalling £9,712 (2023/ 24 £9,299) are held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (Custodian Trustee) on behalf of All Saints, as required by standing orders.</p>
<p>A description of the principal risks facing the charity</p>	<p>Para 1.46</p>	<p>Risk Register & Regular Risk Review process – financial; property/fire; safeguarding, health and safety, and activity/events risks. Risks are discussed by Church Council. The Church takes professional advice as required. Safeguarding policies and procedures are in place. Specific risks of concern: In the medium term, possible decline in Church membership and attendance leading to loss of income from collections, combined with higher operational costs.</p>
<p>Other</p>		

Structure, Governance and Management

<p>Description of charity's trusts:</p>		
<p>Type of governing document</p>	<p>Para 1.25</p>	<p>Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church</p>

(trust deed, royal charter)		<p>Act (1976) The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church</p> <p>All Saints Methodist Church Abingdon reports to the Wantage & Abingdon Methodist Circuit. The Governing Body of the Wantage & Abingdon Methodist Circuit and of the Methodist Church is the Methodist Conference. The authority under which the Methodist Conference acts is given by The Methodist Church Act 1976.</p>
<p>How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)</p>	Para 1.25	Local church constituted under Deed of Union and Standing orders. Forms part of the Methodist Church connexion in the UK.
<p>Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees</p>	Para 1.25	Appointed by Church Council, General Church Meeting or ex-officio.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

<p>Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees</p>	Para 1.51	<p>Policies and procedures for Trustees (members of Church Council) are laid down in the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church (CPD vol. 2) and training materials are located at https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/office-holders/managing-trustees/</p>
<p>The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works</p>	Para 1.51	<p>All Saints Methodist Church Abingdon ("All Saints") is one of 7 congregations comprising The Wantage & Abingdon Methodist Circuit ("Circuit") and the Circuit is within the Northampton District of the Methodist Church in the UK. All Saints, like all local churches is accountable to the Methodist Conference.</p> <p>Church Council is the main decision-making body of All Saints.</p> <p>Church Council is supported by a number of committees that advise and undertake the work of the Church, including Finance Committee, Pastoral Committee, and Family Committee which report to the Church Council meetings. The Presbyter and Chair of the Managing Trustees of the All Saints Church Council is the Rev. Georgina Bondzi-Simpson. The Secretary of the All Saints Church Council is Sue Russell and the current Stewards are Sue Butler, Dawn Tyrell, Margaret Ellwood and Helen Appleyard. There are 17 Managing Trustees currently registered with the Charity</p>

		Commission. The Annual Church Meeting which was held on 8 June 2025 provided an opportunity for members to celebrate achievements of the year and ensure proper governance.
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	All Saints Methodist Church Abingdon
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1184115
Charity's principal address	Appleford Drive, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 2AQ

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Helen Appleyard	Safeguarding Officer and Church in Abingdon representative Steward		Ex officio
2	Alistair Batey			Annual Church Meeting
3	Rev. Georgina F. Bondzi-Simpson	Minister & Chair of Church Council & Circuit Superintendent	Appointed 1 September 2024	Ex officio
4	Judith Penrose Brown	Church Family Committee and Youth Forum Representative		Annual Church Meeting
5	Susan Butler	Pastoral Committee Secretary, Circuit Representative and Junior Church representative Church Steward		Ex officio
6	Margaret Ellwood	Church Steward		Ex officio

7	Gareth Hawkes		Resigned 8 June 2025	Annual Church Meeting
8	Margaret A. Hoskins	Communion Steward (resigned 3 October 2024 in that role)		Annual Church Meeting
9	Richard Matthews	Chair of Finance Committee (and Acting Treasurer)		Annual Church Meeting
10	Dcn. Selina Nisbett	Deacon and Chair of Mission Action	Resigned 31 August 2025	Ex officio
11	Joanne F. Phipps			Annual Church Meeting
12	Derek Pooley	Circuit representative (from 8 June 2025)		Annual Church Meeting
13	Jennifer M. Pooley			Annual Church Meeting
14	Carolyn I. Roche	Circuit Leadership Team	Resigned 2 October 2025	Circuit
15	Susan Russell	Secretary to Church Council		Ex officio
16	Dawn Tyrell	Church Steward		Ex officio
17	Rev. Keith Underhill	Minister & Circuit Superintendent	Resigned 31 August 2025	Ex officio
18	Paul Williams	Circuit representative	Resigned 2 October 2025	Annual Church Meeting
19	John M. Appleyard	Health and safety representative	Appointed on 6 February 2025	Church Council then subsequently at Annual Church Meeting
20	Neil D. Oastler		Appointed 2 October 2025	Circuit
21	Richard W. Hamilton-Foyn		Appointed 2 October 2025	Church Council
22	Rev. Carol M. Hamilton-Foyn		Appointed 2 October 2025	Church Council

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (Custodian Trustee)		
Wantage & Abingdon Circuit		

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	Only appeal funds collected to be passed on to other charitable organisations.
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	Various. Organising appeals for funds for other charitable purposes is a common activity carried out by Methodist Churches and falls within charitable purposes of the Methodist Church.
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	Separate recording of monies collected.

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information) N/A

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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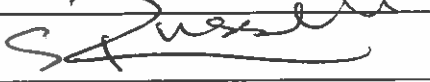
Other optional information

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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Rev. Georgina F. Bondzi-Simpson	Mrs. Susan Russell
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair of Church Council	Secretary of Church Council
Date	Presented at Church Council meeting on 5 February 2026	

5/2/26.