

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH DARLINGTON

England & Wales · Charity number 1126826

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2008-11-20

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Elm Ridge Methodist Church
Carmel Road South
Darlington
DL3 8DJ

Phone 07471323583

Email office@elmridgemethodist.co.uk

Website <https://www.dandtcircuit.org.uk/churches/elm-ridge.html>

Activities

Objects: The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been since the date of union the advancement of -(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 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.

Activities: As a welcoming place of Christian worship the main activity of Elm Ridge Methodist Church is to encourage people to accept Jesus into their lives. We hold services of Christian worship each Sunday and appeal to every age group, as well as study groups and prayer meetings throughout the week. We are also a well used centre for community activities providing a venue for many organisations to meet.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training, Religious Activities, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** ELM RIDGE, DARLINGTON
- Darlington

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£105,146	£156,729	-	-
2024-08-31	£172,811	£139,067	-	-
2023-08-31	£83,345	£110,144	-	-
2022-08-31	£89,944	£127,728	-	-
2021-08-31	£82,391	£112,890	-	-
2020-08-31	£88,440	£147,140	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ANDREA ROBSON		2023-07-06
DAVID HARRIS ACIB		
Debbie Andrew		2023-06-13
Dr STEPHEN SUTCLIFFE		
IAN MALCOLM GEORGE SOUTER		
JOHN EDWARD WEARMOUTH		2015-04-16
JOSANNE ELISABETH HALL MCSP		
Joanne Cundick		2015-04-16
Joseph Victor Haves		2021-06-28
Linda Marian Gallop		2022-06-14
MALCOLM RUPERT CUNDICK RIBA		2015-04-16
Mary Christine Haves		2024-06-11
Mary Leonara Everitt		2024-06-11
Pauline Ann Vernon		2023-06-13
Rev Dr David Hinchliffe		2025-09-01
Rev Graham Andrew Cutler		2021-05-26
Rev John David Howard		2022-06-20
SALLY RUTH SUTCLIFFE		2016-04-14
SARA ELIZABETH LAYFIELD-CARROLL		2016-04-14
Sheenah Elizabeth Adkins		2023-06-13
Susan Carla Jaleel		2023-06-13
TONY ALLEN		
VICTORIA PELLING		2017-04-04

Accounts

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2025

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Charity Registration Number: 1126826

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees of Elm Ridge Methodist Church

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of Elm Ridge Methodist Church (the Church) for the year ended 31 August 2025, which are set out on pages 2 to 8.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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.

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 as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with these 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.

Signed:

Name: Stephen Watson Gardner

Relevant professional qualification or membership of
Professional body (if any):

Institute of Chartered Accountants in
England and Wales

Firm: King Hope

Address: 31 Victoria Road
Darlington
DL1 5SB

Date: 25 MARCH 2026

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

		General Fund (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds (see note 14)	Unrestricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
	Note	£	£	£	2025 £	2024 £
RECEIPTS						
Offerings	1	60,841	-	-	60,841	68,747
Donations		3,608	-	-	3,608	12,963
Weddings & Funeral Fees (net)		170	-	-	170	395
Events (net)		1,194	-	-	1,194	3,177
Room Hire		23,413	-	-	23,413	23,109
Sundry Income	2	2,934	-	-	2,934	480
Interest		1,979	2,829	1,193	6,001	5,546
Dividends		-	1,974	-	1,974	2,636
Legacies		5,011	-	-	5,011	-
Grant Income	3	-	-	-	-	52,400
		99,150	4,803	1,193	105,146	169,453
Sale of Investments		-	26,103	-	26,103	-
Insurance Claim Proceeds		-	-	-	-	3,358
TOTAL RECEIPTS		99,150	30,906	1,193	131,249	172,811
PAYMENTS						
Circuit Assessment	4	57,236	-	-	57,236	57,236
Salaries	5	12,320	-	-	12,320	17,003
Donations	6	2,969	-	-	2,969	1,413
Premises Costs	7	43,449	-	-	43,449	35,350
Administration expenses	8	5,795	-	-	5,795	6,197
Other expenses	9	34,251	-	-	34,251	18,728
Management charges		-	626	83	709	578
		156,020	626	83	156,729	136,505
Purchase of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	2,562
TOTAL PAYMENTS		156,020	626	83	156,729	139,067
NET RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS)						
FOR THE YEAR		(56,870)	30,280	1,110	(25,480)	33,744
Transfers between Funds		75,887	(62,777)	(13,110)	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS		19,017	(32,497)	(12,000)	(25,480)	33,744
TOTAL CASH FUNDS						
BROUGHT FORWARD		27,099	110,213	25,469	162,781	129,037
TOTAL CASH FUNDS		46,116	77,716	13,469	137,301	162,781
CARRIED FORWARD						

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

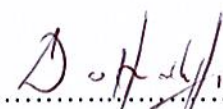
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 £	2024 £
CHURCH CASH FUNDS					
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	11b	13,469	37,716	51,185	84,082
Central Finance Board	13	73,907	-	73,907	12,280
Bank Accounts		(27,791)	40,000	12,209	66,419
Cash in Hand		-	-	-	-
TOTAL CHURCH CASH FUNDS		<u>59,585</u>	<u>77,716</u>	<u>137,301</u>	<u>162,781</u>
OTHER ASSETS					
Furniture and Equipment	10	59,875	-	59,875	65,401
Investments	11a	-	111,427	111,427	133,876
Debtors and prepayments	12	16,209	-	16,209	16,299
		<u>76,084</u>	<u>111,427</u>	<u>187,511</u>	<u>215,576</u>
LIABILITIES					
Creditors and accruals		<u>20,566</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,566</u>	<u>17,632</u>

Approved by the Church Council and signed on its behalf by:-


.....
Stephen Sutcliffe


.....
Revd. David Hinchliffe

Dated: 25 MARCH 2026

The notes on pages 4 to 8 form part of these accounts.

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
1. OFFERINGS		
Services	4,737	4,170
Standing Orders/Gift Aid	39,019	40,830
Tax Refunds	12,592	19,736
Other	4,493	4,011
	<u>60,841</u>	<u>68,747</u>

Tax refunds under gift aid for both 2022/23 and 2023/24 were received in the year ended 31 August 2024.

Offerings from services have been included within gift aid offerings in the books of prime record in the year ended 31 August 2025.

2. SUNDRY INCOME

Church Flat	480	480
Tiddlywinks	2,454	-
	<u>2,934</u>	<u>480</u>

3. GRANT INCOME

Benefact Trust	-	40,000
Willan Trust	-	12,400
Other	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>52,400</u>

The Benefact Trust income is designated for the garden room project. It is expected that this project will be cancelled, and the fund returned.

The Willan Trust income is designated for the grounds access project. The grant has been fully utilised in the year to 31 August 2025.

4. CIRCUIT ASSESSMENT	<u>57,236</u>	<u>57,236</u>
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The circuit assessment due May 2023 of £14,309 was not paid. It has not yet been finalised whether payment will be required. It is currently included in creditors.

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

	2025 £	2024 £
5. SALARIES		
Secretary	4,498	7,247
Others	7,780	9,687
Payroll admin charge	42	69
	<u>12,320</u>	<u>17,003</u>
The average number of persons employed was 2 (2024 - 2).		
Payments are now made to Darlington and Teesdale Methodist Circuit every quarter for shared services. The final payment in the year to 31 August 2025 of £3,723 is currently included within creditors.		
6. DONATIONS MADE		
Connexional	-	-
Others	2,969	1,413
	<u>2,969</u>	<u>1,413</u>
7. PREMISES COSTS		
Insurance Proceeds	(100)	(8,406)
Maintenance	14,506	6,128
Electric, Gas and Water	22,281	14,097
Insurance	6,762	6,577
Hall heating and floor repair	-	16,954
	<u>43,449</u>	<u>35,350</u>
8. ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES		
Office expenses	2,842	2,991
Telephone	583	941
Bank Charges	120	135
Independent examiners fees	2,250	2,130
	<u>5,795</u>	<u>6,197</u>

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
9. OTHER EXPENSES		
Events expenditure	159	1,569
Chair based exercises – net payments	1,080	
Special Projects:		
Organ repair	-	5,892
Garden room	2,850	7,292
Grounds access	11,815	800
Flat refurbishment	15,676	-
Housekeeping and hygiene	1,862	1,802
Books & Miscellaneous	809	1,373
	<u>34,251</u>	<u>18,728</u>

10. FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT

	Organ £	Antique Furniture £	Furniture & Equipment £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Written-down value brought forward 1.9.24	45,000	14,350	6,051	65,401	68,108
Additions for the year	-	-	-	-	2,562
Written down value of disposals	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>45,000</u>	<u>14,350</u>	<u>6,051</u>	<u>65,401</u>	<u>70,670</u>
Depreciation for the year	(3,000)	(1,231)	(1,295)	(5,526)	(5,269)
	<u>42,000</u>	<u>13,119</u>	<u>4,756</u>	<u>59,875</u>	<u>65,401</u>

Assets are depreciated by an agreed proportion of the purchase price each year.

The antique furniture was valued free of charge by Tennants of Leyburn in 2018. This valuation has been maintained as the basis of the written down value in the accounts.

The organ was revalued at £60,000 by Dr A.J. Henderson on 7 October 2019. A further valuation has not been carried out since restoration work in 2023.

Additions in the prior year comprised a dishwasher and projection TV.

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025****11. TRUSTEES FOR METHODIST CHURCH PURPOSES**

This is an investment-receiving body within the Methodist Church. Funds held with them comprise:-

	Restricted Fund £	Unrestricted Fund £	Totals 2025 £	2024 £
a) Investments				
Managed Equity Fund units				
- valuation at 1.9.24	133,876	-	133,876	118,752
- increase/(decrease) in valuation over the year	3,654	-	3,654	15,124
- sale proceeds	(26,103)	-	(26,103)	-
- valuation at 31.8.25	111,427	-	111,427	133,876
b) Cash Deposits				
Trustees Interest Fund	37,716	13,469	51,185	84,082
	149,143	13,469	162,612	217,958

12. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

In addition to the sum shown, certain receipts from 6 April 2025 to 31 August 2025 will be subject to a future gift aid claim.

13. CENTRAL FINANCE BOARD CASH DEPOSITS

	2025 £	2024 £
General Fund	73,907	12,280
	73,907	12,280

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

14. ANALYSIS OF RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Restricted Fund £	Restricted Grants £	Totals	
			2025 £	2024 £
Incoming Cash Resources				
Interest	2,829	-	2,829	3,179
Dividends	1,974	-	1,974	2,636
Sale of investments	26,103	-	26,103	-
Grants received	-	-	-	52,400
Total Incoming Cash Resources	30,906	-	30,906	58,215
Cash Resources Use				
Other expenses	-	11,815	11,815	800
Management Charges	626	-	626	505
Total Cash Resources Used	626	11,815	12,441	1,305
Net Incoming Cash Resources	30,280	(11,815)	18,465	56,910
Transfers to General Fund	(51,177)	215	(50,962)	(5,310)
Increase/(Decrease) in investments	(22,449)	-	(22,449)	15,124
Net movement in funds	(43,346)	(11,600)	(54,946)	66,724
Funds brought forward	192,489	51,600	244,089	177,365
Funds carried forward	149,143	40,000	189,143	244,089

The carried forward Fund value is represented by:-

			2025 £	2024 £
Cash Deposits	37,716	40,000	77,716	110,213
Investments	111,427	-	111,427	133,876
	149,143	40,000	189,143	244,089
Garden room project (repayment expected)		40,000		
Grounds access project (fully utilised)		0		
		40,000		

Elm Ridge Methodist Church, Darlington

Registered Charity No: 1126826

Tel: 07471 323583 | Email: office@elmridgemethodist.co.uk | www.elmridgemethodist.org.uk

Trustees Annual Report and Accounts – year ended 31 August 2025.

Accountants: King Hope, 31 Victoria Road, Darlington.

Public Benefit:

Elm Ridge Methodist Church provides a seven day a week Christian ministry to the West Darlington neighbourhood. Regular services of worship are at the heart of our mission and supported by study groups and pastoral care to members and adherents.

The premises are used extensively for a wide range of activities for all ages and are open to the whole community. The premises are also used by external organisations such as Slimming World, Weight Watchers, the local PACT group, the National Childbirth Trust, Sing Community Choir, Probus, Yoga and chair-based exercise groups, several art and embroidery groups, Parkinsons UK, Darlington Town Mission and a Lung Cancer Support group. We welcome any organisation provided they do not detract from the Christian ethos of the church. Coffee Drop-In sessions are open to the public and help build relationships with our local community.

The recent partnership with Durham Wildlife Trust supported by the Willan Trust 1989 has successfully opened access to the hitherto inaccessible wild area with engagement by a number of community groups to learn and engage in the area.

The trustees believe they have had due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

Activities:

Christian worship is our core activity. Our Sunday services are held weekly at 10:30am and we hold Parade Services for the children belonging to the uniformed organisations to be present on appropriate Sundays of the year. Monthly during spring and summer, we host a Circuit Service at 6pm. We also share joint services with All Saints Parish Church for ecumenical events.

Weekly pre-recorded worship services produced in collaboration with the Darlington and Teesdale Methodist Circuit are also a part of our regular ministry. Our Pastoral Visitor network remains a much-appreciated source of practical and spiritual friendship and support. The weekly newsletter continues to be circulated widely.

A full range of uniformed groups - Rainbows, Beavers, Brownies, Cubs, Guides, Scouts, Explorer Scouts and Rangers - for children and young people aged 5-24 meet regularly during the week, and we encourage social events involving families. Most of the uniformed groups have a waiting list.

Tiddlywinks, a church run group for parents/carers and young children, meets weekly during term time.

Care for the elderly and those who live alone is an important part of our ministry. Elm Ridge Church supports retired/elderly people by providing several groups for friendship, support and fellowship which meet weekly, fortnightly or monthly. In addition, there are study groups for all members of the Church.

Structures:

Elm Ridge Church is part of Darlington and Teesdale Methodist Circuit, which includes nine Methodist Churches located between Darlington and Middleton-in-Teesdale. Elm Ridge is governed by a Church Council (membership listed) meeting at least twice per year, plus an AGM at which all 105 (figure at August 2025) church members are eligible to attend. Representatives of the Church Council attend the Circuit Meeting which convenes at least three times a year.

Detailed work on property and finance is delegated to a Finance Committee which reports to the Church Council. The leadership of the Church is through the Stewards' meeting which reports directly to the Church Council.

Trustees of the Registered Charity between September 2024 and August 2025

Trustees of the Registered Charity				
Position	Name	Date appointed to post if in year.	Date left post if in year	Date First Appointed to Church Council
Acting Superintendent (Chair)	Rev John Howard			2022
Circuit Presbyter	Rev Graham Cutler			2020
Circuit Presbyter	Rev Gavin Hume			2023
Church Council Secretary	Sara Layfield-Carroll			2016
Church Steward	Tony Allen			2016
Church Steward	Peter Gallop			2022
Church Steward	Linda Gallop			2022
Church Steward	Sheenah Adkins			2023
Church Treasurer	Stephen Sutcliffe			2009
Pastoral Committee Secretary	Andrea Robson			2023
Pastoral Committee	Mary Everitt			2024
Property Committee	Ian Souter			1999
Finance Committee	David Harris			2002
Safeguarding	Sally Sutcliffe			2018
Methodist Homes	Josanne Hall			2005
Methodist Women in Britain Elected by General Church Meeting	Margaret Wearmouth		December 2024	2021
	Jo Cundick			2015
	John Wearmouth			2015
	Malcolm Cundick			2015
	Sara Layfield-Carroll			2016
	Victoria Pelling			2017
	Joe Haves			2021
	Susan Jaleel			2023
	Mary Haves			2024
	Deborah Andrew			2023
Other members of Church Council who are not Trustees of the Charity				
Presbyter	Rev Philip Clarke			2022
Circuit Representative	Valerie Tooth			2020
Church Steward	Julie Watson			2015
Elected by General Church Meeting	Angela Gibson			2018
Elected by General Church Meeting	Susanne Davison			2018
Elected by General Church Meeting	Alison Dinsdale			2022

The composition of the Church Council and method of appointment is determined by Standing Orders relating to the Governance of the Methodist Church in Great Britain.

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/9157/conf-2018-cpd-vol-2.pdf> page 520. All members are expected to be trustees of the charity unless they specifically decline to do so.

The minister appointed to the church who is chair of trustees has been on long-term medical leave and the role of chair has been assumed by Rev John Howard, acting superintendent minister. This will continue until September 2025 when a new minister and chair will take up this office.

Safeguarding Officers:

Sally Sutcliffe (registered as a trustee)

Performance/achievements over the last year:

We continued to host weekly worship services on Sunday mornings and monthly on an evening. During Advent and Lent, groups met for study, prayer and fellowship. A newly formed group of musicians and singers added a musical flavour to services celebrating the festivals. All of our Church services are open to any member of the public.

Meetings of Trustees and the various church management committees were all held according to the constitution of the church.

A full programme of activities means that the recruitment and training of new volunteers, including their DBS clearance and safeguarding training is vital and on-going.

For our Harvest Festival, we supported the Methodist aid charity All We Can. Further donations were also made throughout the year including events raising funds for Methodist Homes, Action for Children and other local and national charities. The church continued to support fair trade by using fair trade products wherever possible.

Elm Ridge received the A Rocha bronze award for our eco and environmental engagement as the first step to recognising our obligations to the created world in which we live.

Men's Fellowship continued to meet for our members and friends, as did Tiddlywinks (our toddler group). Our regular Monday morning Coffee Drop-in was well attended by members of the local Probud group, church family and people from the local community.

The project to establish access to the lower part of the grounds was completed, in partnership with the Durham Wildlife Trust with financial support by the Willan Trust 1989. This has created safe access to the lower part of the grounds and we have entertained a range of visitors to explore the wildlife there, and learn of the environment and the Creation.

A number of volunteers from the church and community came together each week to help maintain the church building, hall and grounds.

We continued to develop plans for an extension to the building and a possible café project with a view to making a firm decision during 2026.

Aims and objectives for the coming year:

- To provide varied, relevant and inclusive worship.
- To offer good quality pastoral care to our members and friends.
- To lead people to faith in Christ and nurture and encourage them as disciples of Jesus.
- To explore different ways of worshipping and encourage wider participation by those who use our premises through an emphasis on the festivals.
- To continue to give active support to the wider Methodist Circuit, especially in terms of offering whole-hearted support to working with the other churches to deepen our faith and knowledge of Christianity, taking an active interest in the mission of the Darlington Methodist District and the wider Methodist Connexion.
- To explore opportunities for ecumenical relationships in the context of the Anglican/Methodist Covenant and other initiatives, including supporting 'Churches Together in Darlington'.

- To support voluntary and charitable work around the UK and beyond.
- To continue our programme to identify and train new leaders for several groups, including workers with children and young people.
- To seek appropriate ways to include our local community in the life of the Church and for the Church to build mutually beneficial relationships with the people with whom we come into contact.
- To look at options for the sustainable future of Elm Ridge Church centered on a balanced budget and maximising the use of the buildings and grounds.

Safeguarding Policy:

Elm Ridge adopts the standard Safeguarding Policy for Methodist churches as recommended by the Connexional Methodist Church. The policy is displayed in all buildings and copies provided for all groups using our premises. Posters advising on safeguarding matters and giving helpline details are displayed on notice boards and lavatories. Safeguarding training has been offered during the year at basic and advanced levels to those people that have responsibilities involving children's activities or adults who may be vulnerable. Where required, individuals are also DBS checked at the interval and level advised by Methodist Church Safer Recruitment and Safeguarding Policy. There have been no incidents through the year requiring any formal investigation.

Risk Assessment, Property and Health & Safety:

Our Property Committee regularly reviews the risks connected to their areas of work and report to the Church Council appropriately. No major cost items of maintenance were required to the premises during the year. The Risk register was updated again during the year and sums of money allocated from reserves to deal with possible future issues relating to the roof, drainage and trees.

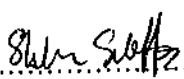
Documents regarding the financial risk of Trusteeship are made available to new Trustees when appointed.

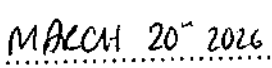
Finance Review for the 12 months ending 31 August 2025:

The Church accounts record an operating cash deficit of £56,870 for the year which was able to be funded from reserves

The Reserves and Investment Policies were updated and approved by Managing Trustees.

The Church's investments (other than cash) are held with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.

Signed:.....

Date:.....

Accounts

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2024

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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 as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with these 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.

Signed:

Name: Stephen Watson Gardner

Firm: King Hope

Relevant professional qualification or membership of Professional body (if any):

Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Address: 31 Victoria Road
Darlington
DL1 5SB

Date:

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

		General Fund (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds (see note 14)	Unrestricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
	Note	£	£	£	2024	2023
					£	£
RECEIPTS						
Offerings	1	68,747	-	-	68,747	49,676
Donations		12,963	-	-	12,963	7,195
Weddings & Funeral Fees (net)		395	-	-	395	650
Events (net)		3,177	-	-	3,177	313
Room Hire		23,109	-	-	23,109	17,756
Sundry Income	2	480	-	-	480	480
Interest		1,020	3,179	1,347	5,546	3,740
Dividends		-	2,636	-	2,636	3,285
Legacies		-	-	-	-	-
Grant Income	3	-	52,400	-	52,400	250
		<u>109,891</u>	<u>58,215</u>	<u>1,347</u>	<u>169,453</u>	<u>83,345</u>
Sale of Investments		-	-	-	-	15,786
Insurance Claim Proceeds		3,358	-	-	3,358	-
		<u>113,249</u>	<u>58,215</u>	<u>1,347</u>	<u>172,811</u>	<u>99,131</u>
PAYMENTS						
Circuit Assessment	4	57,236	-	-	57,236	42,927
Salaries	5	17,003	-	-	17,003	18,043
Donations	6	1,413	-	-	1,413	3,324
Premises Costs	7	35,350	-	-	35,350	34,796
Administration expenses	8	6,197	-	-	6,197	5,638
Other expenses	9	17,928	800	-	18,728	4,747
Management charges		-	505	73	578	669
		<u>135,127</u>	<u>1,305</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>136,505</u>	<u>110,144</u>
Purchase of fixed assets		2,562	-	-	2,562	-
		<u>137,689</u>	<u>1,305</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>139,067</u>	<u>110,144</u>
NET RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS) FOR THE YEAR		(24,440)	56,910	1,274	33,744	(11,013)
Transfers between Funds		6,584	(5,310)	(1,274)	-	-
		<u>(17,856)</u>	<u>51,600</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>33,744</u>	<u>(11,013)</u>
NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS						
TOTAL CASH FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD		44,955	58,613	25,469	129,037	140,050
TOTAL CASH FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>27,099</u>	<u>110,213</u>	<u>25,469</u>	<u>162,781</u>	<u>129,037</u>

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 £	2023 £
CHURCH CASH FUNDS					
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	11b	25,469	58,613	84,082	84,082
Central Finance Board	13	12,280	-	12,280	27,314
Bank Accounts		14,819	51,600	66,419	17,641
Cash in Hand		-	-	-	-
TOTAL CHURCH CASH FUNDS		52,568	110,213	162,781	129,037
OTHER ASSETS					
Furniture and Equipment	10	65,401	-	65,401	68,108
Investments	11a	-	133,876	133,876	118,752
Debtors and prepayments	12	16,299	-	16,299	25,224
		81,700	133,876	215,576	212,084
LIABILITIES					
Creditors and accruals		17,632	-	17,632	17,201

Approved by the Church Council and signed on its behalf by:-

.....
Stephen Sutcliffe

.....
Rev. John David Howard

Dated: 2025

The notes on pages 4 to 8 form part of these accounts.

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
1. OFFERINGS		
Services	4,170	5,789
Standing Orders/Gift Aid	40,830	37,204
Tax Refunds	19,736	-
Other	4,011	6,683
	<u>68,747</u>	<u>49,676</u>

Tax refunds under gift aid for both 2022/23 and 2023/24 were received in the year ended 31 August 2024.

2. SUNDRY INCOME		
Church Flat	480	480
	<u>480</u>	<u>480</u>
3. GRANT INCOME		
Benefact Trust	40,000	-
Willan Trust	12,400	-
Other	-	250
	<u>52,400</u>	<u>250</u>

The Benefact Trust income is designated for the garden room project.

The Willan Trust income is designated for the grounds access project.

4. CIRCUIT ASSESSMENT	57,236	42,947
	<u>57,236</u>	<u>42,947</u>

The circuit assessment due May 2023 of £14,309 was not paid. It has not yet been finalised whether payment will be required. It is currently included in creditors.

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

	2024 £	2023 £
5. SALARIES		
Secretary	7,247	8,427
Pension	-	-
Others	9,687	9,556
Payroll admin charge	69	60
	<u>17,003</u>	<u>18,043</u>
The average number of persons employed was 2 (2023 - 2).		
Due to variations in the timing of payments, although 12 months were paid this year, 13 payments were made last year.		
6. DONATIONS MADE		
Connexional	-	-
Others	1,413	3,324
	<u>1,413</u>	<u>3,324</u>
7. PREMISES COSTS		
Insurance Proceeds	(8,406)	(2,216)
Maintenance	6,128	15,290
Electric, Gas and Water	14,097	15,449
Insurance	6,577	6,273
Hall heating and floor repair	16,954	-
	<u>35,350</u>	<u>34,796</u>
8. ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES		
Office expenses	2,991	2,731
Telephone	941	806
Bank Charges	135	121
Independent examiners fees	2,130	1,980
	<u>6,197</u>	<u>5,638</u>

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
9. OTHER EXPENSES		
Events expenditure	1,569	1,124
Special Projects:		
Organ repair	5,892	-
Garden room	7,292	-
Grounds access	800	-
Garden Project expenditure	-	882
Housekeeping and hygiene	1,802	1,699
Books & Miscellaneous	1,373	1,042
	<u>18,728</u>	<u>4,747</u>

10. FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT

	Organ £	Antique Furniture £	Furniture & Equipment £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Written-down value brought forward 1.9.23	48,000	15,581	4,527	68,108	73,683
Additions for the year	-	-	2,562	2,562	-
Written down value of disposals	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>48,000</u>	<u>15,581</u>	<u>7,089</u>	<u>70,670</u>	<u>73,683</u>
Depreciation for the year	(3,000)	(1,231)	(1,038)	(5,269)	(5,575)
	<u>45,000</u>	<u>14,350</u>	<u>6,051</u>	<u>65,401</u>	<u>68,108</u>

Assets are depreciated by an agreed proportion of the purchase price each year.

The antique furniture was valued free of charge by Tennants of Leyburn in 2018. This valuation has been maintained as the basis of the written down value in the accounts.

The organ was revalued at £60,000 by Dr A.J. Henderson on 7 October 2019. A further valuation has not been carried out since restoration work in 2023.

Additions in the year comprised a dishwasher and projection TV.

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024****11. TRUSTEES FOR METHODIST CHURCH PURPOSES**

This is an investment-receiving body within the Methodist Church. Funds held with them comprise:-

	Restricted Fund £	Unrestricted Fund £	Totals 2024 £	2023 £
a) Investments				
Managed Equity Fund units				
- valuation at 1.9.23	118,752	-	118,752	131,264
- increase/(decrease) in valuation over the year	15,124	-	15,124	(3,274)
- sale proceeds	-	-	-	(15,786)
- valuation at 31.8.24	133,876	-	133,876	118,752
b) Cash Deposits				
Trustees Interest Fund	58,613	25,469	84,082	84,082
	192,489	25,469	217,958	202,834

12. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

In addition to the sum shown, certain receipts from 6 April 2024 to 31 August 2024 will be subject to a future gift aid claim.

13. CENTRAL FINANCE BOARD CASH DEPOSITS

	2024 £	2023 £
General Fund	12,280	27,314
	12,280	27,314

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

14. ANALYSIS OF RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Restricted Fund £	Restricted Grants £	Totals	
			2024 £	2023 £
Incoming Cash Resources				
Interest	3,179	-	3,179	2,512
Dividends	2,636	-	2,636	3,285
Sale of investments	-	-	-	15,786
Grants received	-	52,400	52,400	-
Total Incoming Cash Resources	5,815	52,400	58,215	21,583
Cash Resources Use				
Other expenses	-	800	800	-
Management Charges	505	-	505	596
Total Cash Resources Used	505	800	1,305	596
Net Incoming Cash Resources	5,310	51,600	56,910	20,987
Transfers to General Fund	(5,310)	-	(5,310)	(40,201)
Increase/(Decrease) in valuation of investments	15,124	-	15,124	(12,512)
Net movement in funds	15,124	51,600	66,724	(31,726)
Funds brought forward	177,365	-	177,365	209,091
Funds carried forward	192,489	51,600	244,089	177,365

The carried forward Fund value is represented by:-

			2024 £	2023 £
Cash Deposits	58,613	51,600	110,213	58,613
Investments	133,876	-	133,876	118,752
	192,489	51,600	244,089	177,365
Garden room project		40,000		
Grounds access project		11,600		
		51,600		

Elm Ridge Methodist Church, Darlington

Registered Charity No: 1126826

Tel: 01325 282491 | Email: office@elmridgemethodist.co.uk | www.elmridgemethodist.org.uk

Trustees Annual Report and Accounts – year ended 31 August 2024.

Accountants: King Hope Chartered Accountants, 31 Victoria Road, Darlington.

Public Benefit:

Elm Ridge Methodist Church provides a seven day a week Christian ministry to the West Darlington neighbourhood. Regular services of worship are at the heart of our mission and supported by study groups and pastoral care to members and adherents.

The premises are used extensively for a wide range of activities for all ages and are open to the whole community. The premises are also used by external organisations such as Slimming World, Weight Watchers, the local PACT group, the National Childbirth Trust, Sing Community Choir, Probus, Yoga and chair-based exercise groups, several art and embroidery groups, Parkinsons UK, Darlington Town Mission and a Lung Cancer Support group. We welcome any organisation provided they do not detract from the Christian ethos of the church. Coffee Drop-In sessions are open to the public and help build relationships with our local community.

Working in partnership with Durham Wildlife Trust, we continue to develop ways in which the more hidden parts of our church grounds can be used for the benefit of nature and the local community.

The trustees believe they have had due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

Activities:

Christian worship is our core activity. Our Sunday services are held weekly at 10:30am and we hold Parade Services for the children belonging to the uniformed organisations to be present on appropriate Sundays of the year. Monthly during spring and summer, we host a Circuit Service at 6pm. We also share joint services with All Saints Parish Church for ecumenical events.

Weekly pre-recorded worship services produced in collaboration with the Darlington and Teesdale Methodist Circuit are also a part of our regular ministry. Our Pastoral Visitor network remains a much-appreciated source of practical and spiritual friendship and support. The weekly newsletter continues to be circulated widely.

A full range of uniformed groups - Rainbows, Beavers, Brownies, Cubs, Guides, Scouts, Explorer Scouts and Rangers - for children and young people aged 5-24 meet regularly during the week, and we encourage social events involving families. Most of the uniformed groups have a waiting list.

Tiddlywinks, a church run group for parents/carers and young children, meets weekly during term time.

Care for the elderly and those who live alone is an important part of our ministry. Elm Ridge Church supports retired/elderly people by providing several groups for friendship, support and fellowship which meet weekly, fortnightly or monthly. In addition, there are study groups for all members of the Church.

Structures:

Elm Ridge Church is part of Darlington and Teesdale Methodist Circuit, which includes nine Methodist Churches located between Darlington and Middleton-in-Teesdale. Elm Ridge is governed by a Church Council (membership listed) meeting at least twice per year, plus an AGM at which all 116 (figure at August 2024) church members are eligible to attend. Representatives of the Church Council attend the Circuit Meeting which convenes at least three times a year.

Detailed work on property and finance is delegated to a Finance Committee which reports to the Church Council. The leadership of the Church is through the Stewards' meeting which reports directly to the Church Council.

Trustees of the Registered Charity between September 2023 and August 2024

Trustees of the Registered Charity				
Position	Name	Date appointed to post if in year.	Date left post if in year	Date First Appointed to Church Council
Acting Superintendent (Chair)	Rev John Howard	Sept 2022		June 2022
Circuit Presbyter	Rev Graham Cutler			Sept 2020
Circuit Presbyter	Rev Brian Hutton			Sept 2020
Church Council Secretary	Sara Layfield-Carroll			2016
Church Steward	Tony Allen			May 2016
Church Steward	Peter Gallop			2022
Church Steward	Linda Gallop			2022
Church Steward	Polly Vernon			2023
Church Steward	Erin Robinson	June 2024		
Church Steward	Sheenah Adkins			2023
Church Treasurer	Stephen Sutcliffe			2009
Pastoral Committee Secretary	Andrea Robson	June 2023		2023
Pastoral Committee	Mary Everitt	June 2024		
Property Committee	Ian Souter			1999
Finance Committee	David Harris			2002
Safeguarding	Sally Sutcliffe			April 2018
Methodist Homes	Josanne Hall			2005
Methodist Women in Britain	Margaret Wearmouth			May 2021
Elected by General Church Meeting	Jo Cundick			2015
	John Wearmouth			2015
	Malcolm Cundick			2015
	Sara Layfield-Carroll			2016
	Victoria Pelling			2017
	Joe Haves			2021
	Susan Jaleel			2023
	Mary Haves	June 2024		
	Deborah Andrew			2023
Other members of Church Council who are not Trustees of the Charity				
Presbyter	Rev Philip Clarke			2022
Circuit Representative	Valerie Tooth			2020
Church Steward	Julie Watson			May 2015
Elected by General Church Meeting	Angela Gibson			2018
Elected by General Church Meeting	Susanne Davison			2018
Elected by General Church Meeting	Alison Dinsdale	1/9/2022		

The composition of the Church Council and method of appointment is determined by Standing Orders relating to the Governance of the Methodist Church in Great Britain.

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/9157/conf-2018-cpd-vol-2.pdf> page 520. All members are expected to be trustees of the charity unless they specifically decline to do so.

The minister appointed to the church who is chair of trustees has been on long-term medical leave and the role of chair has been assumed by Rev John Howard, acting superintendent minister. This will continue until September 2025 when a new minister and chair will take up this office.

Safeguarding Officers:

Sally Sutcliffe (registered as a trustee)

Performance/achievements over the last year:

We continued to host weekly worship services on Sunday mornings and monthly on an evening. During Advent and Lent, groups met for study, prayer and fellowship. A newly formed group of musicians and singers added a musical flavour to services celebrating the festivals. All of our Church services are open to any member of the public.

Meetings of Trustees and the various church management committees were held in person. A full programme of activities means that the recruitment and training of new volunteers, including their DBS clearance and safeguarding training is vital and on-going.

For our Harvest Festival, we supported another church in the town with donations of money and goods. Further donations were also made throughout the year. Events raised funds for Methodist Homes and other local and national charities. The church continued to support fair trade by using fair trade products wherever possible.

Elm Ridge received A Rocha bronze award for our eco and environmental engagement as the first step to recognising our obligations to the created world in which we live.

Men's Fellowship continued to meet for our members and friends, as did Tiddlywinks (our toddler group). Our regular Monday morning Coffee Drop-in was well attended by members of the local Proboscis group, church family and people from the local community.

A group established to develop the extensive grounds around the property began working in collaboration with Durham Wildlife Trust to develop ways in which the more hidden parts of our church grounds could be used for the benefit of nature and the local community.

A number of volunteers from the church and community came together each week to help maintain the church building, hall and grounds.

A group established to look into the viability of developing a full-time cafe facility on the premises met a number of times throughout the year. Planning permission has been granted and fundraising has commenced with a view to starting work in 2025/26..

Aims and objectives for the coming year:

- To provide varied, relevant and inclusive worship.
- To offer good quality pastoral care to our members and friends.
- To lead people to faith in Christ and nurture and encourage them as disciples of Jesus.
- To explore different ways of worshipping and encourage wider participation by those who use our premises through an emphasis on the festivals.
- To continue to give active support to the wider Methodist Circuit, especially in terms of offering whole-hearted support to working with the other churches to deepen our faith and knowledge of Christianity, taking an active interest in the mission of the Darlington Methodist District and the wider Methodist Connexion.
- To explore opportunities for ecumenical relationships in the context of the Anglican/Methodist Covenant and other initiatives, including supporting 'Churches Together in Darlington'.
- To support voluntary and charitable work around the UK and beyond.

- To continue our programme to identify and train new leaders for several groups, including workers with children and young people.
- To seek appropriate ways to include our local community in the life of the Church and for the Church to build mutually beneficial relationships with the people with whom we come into contact.
- To look at options for the sustainable future of Elm Ridge Church centered on a balanced budget and maximising the use of the buildings and grounds.

Safeguarding Policy:

Elm Ridge adopts the standard Safeguarding Policy for Methodist churches as recommended by the Connexional Methodist Church. The policy is displayed in all buildings and copies provided for all groups using our premises. Posters advising on safeguarding matters and giving helpline details are displayed on notice boards and lavatories. Safeguarding training has been offered during the year at basic and advanced levels to those people that have responsibilities involving children's activities or adults who may be vulnerable. Where required, individuals are also DBS checked at the interval and level advised by Methodist Church Safer Recruitment and Safeguarding Policy.

Risk Assessment, Property and Health & Safety:

Our Property Committee regularly reviews the risks connected to their areas of work and report to the Church Council appropriately. No major cost items of maintenance were required to the premises during the year. The Risk register was updated again during the year and sums of money allocated from reserves to deal with possible future issues relating to the roof, drainage and trees.

Documents regarding the financial risk of Trusteeship are made available to new Trustees when appointed.

Finance Review for the 12 months ending 31 August 2024:

The Church accounts record an operating cash deficit of £24,440 for the year which was able to be funded from reserves. The value of investments also increased by £15,124 and restricted grant funds by £51,600.

The Reserves and Investment Policies were updated and approved by Managing Trustees.

The Church's investments (other than cash) are held with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.

Signed:.....

Date:.....

Accounts

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2023

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Page 1	Independent Examiner's Report
Page 2	Receipts and Payments Account
Page 3	Statement of Assets and Liabilities
Pages 4 - 8	Notes to the Accounts
Pages 9 - 12	Trustees Annual Report

Charity Registration Number: 1126826

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees of Elm Ridge Methodist Church

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of Elm Ridge Methodist Church (the Church) for the year ended 31 August 2023, which are set out on pages 2 to 8.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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.

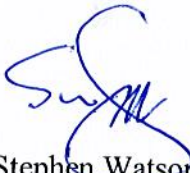
Independent examiner's statement

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 as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with these 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.

Signed:



Name: Stephen Watson Gardner

Firm: King Hope

Relevant professional qualification or membership of
Professional body (if any): Institute of Chartered Accountants in
England and Wales

Address: 31 Victoria Road
Darlington
DL1 5SB

Date: 16 May 2024

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

		General Fund (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds (see note 14)	Unrestricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
	Note	£	£	£	2023	2022
					£	£
RECEIPTS						
Offerings	1	49,676	-	-	49,676	64,148
Donations		7,195	-	-	7,195	5,747
Weddings & Funeral Fees (net)		650	-	-	650	1,299
Events (net)		313	-	-	313	2,871
Room Hire		17,756	-	-	17,756	13,299
Sundry Income	2	480	-	-	480	1,177
Interest		420	2,512	808	3,740	537
Dividends		-	3,285	-	3,285	3,818
Legacies		-	-	-	-	-
Grant Income		250	-	-	250	-
		76,740	5,797	808	83,345	92,896
Sale of Investments		-	15,786	-	15,786	21,697
Sale of furniture		-	-	-	-	1,358
TOTAL RECEIPTS		76,740	21,583	808	99,131	115,951
PAYMENTS						
Circuit Assessment	3	42,927	-	-	42,927	57,236
Salaries	4	18,043	-	-	18,043	13,304
Donations	5	3,324	-	-	3,324	1,923
Premises Costs	6	34,796	-	-	34,796	32,441
Administration expenses	7	5,638	-	-	5,638	7,465
Other expenses	8	4,747	-	-	4,747	15,359
Management charges		-	596	73	669	818
		109,475	596	73	110,144	128,546
Purchase of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL PAYMENTS		109,475	596	73	110,144	128,546
NET RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS)						
FOR THE YEAR		(32,735)	20,987	735	(11,013)	(12,595)
Transfers between Funds		40,936	(40,201)	(735)	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS		8,201	(19,214)	-	(11,013)	(12,595)
TOTAL CASH FUNDS						
BROUGHT FORWARD		36,754	77,827	25,469	140,050	152,645
TOTAL CASH FUNDS		44,955	58,613	25,469	129,037	140,050
CARRIED FORWARD						

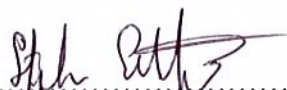
ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 £	2022 £
CHURCH CASH FUNDS					
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	11b	25,469	58,613	84,082	103,296
Central Finance Board	13	27,314	-	27,314	950
Bank Accounts		17,641	-	17,641	35,804
Cash in Hand		-	-	-	-
TOTAL CHURCH CASH FUNDS		70,424	58,613	129,037	140,050
OTHER ASSETS					
Furniture and Equipment	10	68,108	-	68,108	73,683
Investments	11a	-	118,752	118,752	131,264
Debtors and prepayments	12	25,224	-	25,224	16,525
		93,332	118,752	212,084	221,472
LIABILITIES					
Creditors and accruals		17,201	-	17,201	3,671

Approved by the Church Council and signed on its behalf by:-


.....
Stephen Sutcliffe


.....
Revd. John David Howard

Dated: 16 May 2024

The notes on pages 4 to 8 form part of these accounts.

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1. OFFERINGS	2023	2022
	£	£
Services	5,789	3,768
Standing Orders/Gift Aid	37,204	44,782
Tax Refunds	-	12,246
Other	6,683	3,352
	<u>49,676</u>	<u>64,148</u>

Tax refunds of £10,915 were received in September 2023.

2. SUNDRY INCOME

Church Flat	480	480
Printing and copying	-	697
	<u>480</u>	<u>1,177</u>

3. CIRCUIT ASSESSMENT

42,947	57,236
<u>42,947</u>	<u>57,236</u>

The circuit assessment due May 2023 of £14,309 was not paid. It has not yet been finalised whether payment will be required. It is currently included in creditors.

4. SALARIES

Secretary	8,427	5,701
Pension	-	161
Others	9,556	7,412
Payroll admin charge	60	30
	<u>18,043</u>	<u>13,304</u>

The average number of persons employed was 2 (2022 - 2).

Due to variations in the timing of payments, 13 months were paid this year but only 11 last year.

5. DONATIONS MADE

Connexional	-	450
Others	3,324	1,473
	<u>3,324</u>	<u>1,923</u>

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

6. PREMISES COSTS	2023	2022
	£	£
Insurance Proceeds	(2,216)	-
Maintenance	15,290	12,982
Electric, Gas and Water	15,449	13,774
Insurance	6,273	5,685
	34,796	32,441
7. ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES		
Office expenses	2,731	3,860
Telephone	806	1,289
Bank Charges	121	186
Independent examiners fees	1,980	1,890
Professional fees	-	240
	5,638	7,465
8. OTHER EXPENSES		
Events expenditure	1,124	-
Sanctuary Project expenditure	-	10,648
Garden Project expenditure	882	1,282
Housekeeping and hygiene	1,699	1,474
Books & Miscellaneous	1,042	1,955
	4,747	15,359
9. TRUSTEE REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES		

Salary costs included £7,412 in 2022 paid to a trustee. This was for cleaning work and did not remunerate that person for duties as a trustee.

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

10. FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT

	Organ £	Antique Furniture £	Furniture & Equipment £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Written-down value brought forward 1.9.22	51,000	16,812	5,871	73,683	79,261
Additions for the year	-	-	-	-	-
Written down value of disposals	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>51,000</u>	<u>16,812</u>	<u>5,871</u>	<u>73,683</u>	<u>79,261</u>
Depreciation for the year	(3,000)	(1,231)	(1,344)	(5,575)	(5,578)
	<u>48,000</u>	<u>15,581</u>	<u>4,527</u>	<u>68,108</u>	<u>73,683</u>

Assets are depreciated by an agreed proportion of the purchase price each year.

The antique furniture was valued free of charge by Tennants of Leyburn in 2018. This valuation has been maintained as the basis of the written down value in the accounts.

The organ was revalued at £60,000 by Dr A.J. Henderson on 7 October 2019.

11. TRUSTEES FOR METHODIST CHURCH PURPOSES

This is an investment-receiving body within the Methodist Church. Funds held with them comprise:-

	Restricted Fund £	Unrestricted Fund £	Totals 2023 £	2022 £
a) Investments				
Managed Equity Fund units				
- valuation at 1.9.22	131,264	-	131,264	168,508
- increase/(decrease) in valuation over the year	(3,274)	-	(3,274)	(15,547)
- sale proceeds	(15,786)	-	(15,786)	(21,697)
	<u>118,752</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>118,752</u>	<u>131,264</u>
- valuation at 31.8.23				
	118,752	-	118,752	131,264
b) Cash Deposits				
Trustees Interest Fund	58,613	25,469	84,082	103,296
	<u>177,365</u>	<u>25,469</u>	<u>202,834</u>	<u>234,560</u>

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

12. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

In addition to the sum shown, certain receipts from 6 April 2023 to 31 August 2023 will be subject to a future gift aid claim.

13. CENTRAL FINANCE BOARD CASH DEPOSITS	2023	2022
	£	£
General Fund	27,314	950
	27,314	950

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

14. ANALYSIS OF RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Restricted Fund £	Totals	
		2023 £	2022 £
Incoming Cash Resources			
Interest	2,512	2,512	372
Dividends	3,285	3,285	3,818
Sale of investments	15,786	15,786	21,697
Total Incoming Cash Resources	21,583	21,583	25,887
Cash Resources Use			
Management Charges	596	596	745
Total Cash Resources Used	596	596	745
Net Incoming Cash Resources	20,987	20,987	25,142
Transfers to General Fund	(40,201)	(40,201)	(40,144)
(Decrease) in valuation of investments	(12,512)	(12,512)	(37,244)
Net movement in funds	(31,726)	(31,726)	(52,246)
Funds brought forward	209,091	209,091	261,337
Funds carried forward	177,365	177,365	209,091

The carried forward Fund value is represented by:-

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash Deposits	58,613	77,827
Investments	118,752	131,264
	177,365	209,091

Elm Ridge Methodist Church, Darlington

Registered Charity No: 1126826

Tel: 01325 282491 | Email: office@elmridgemethodist.co.uk | www.elmridgemethodist.org.uk

Trustees Annual Report and Accounts – year ended 31 August 2023.

Accountants: King Hope Chartered Accountants, 31 Victoria Road, Darlington.

Public Benefit:

Elm Ridge Methodist Church provides a seven day a week Christian ministry to the West Darlington neighbourhood. Regular services of worship are at the heart of our mission and supported by study groups and pastoral care to members and adherents.

The premises are used extensively for a wide range of activities for all ages and are open to the whole community. The premises are also used by external organisations such as Slimming World, Weight Watchers, the local PACT group, the National Childbirth Trust, Sing Community Choir, Probus, Yoga and chair-based exercise groups, several art and embroidery groups, Parkinsons UK, Darlington Town Mission and a Lung Cancer Support group. We welcome any organisation provided they do not detract from the Christian ethos of the church. Coffee Drop-In sessions are open to the public and help build relationships with our local community.

Working in partnership with Durham Wildlife Trust, we are currently developing ways in which the more hidden parts of our church grounds can be used for the benefit of nature and the local community.

The trustees believe they have had due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

Activities:

Christian worship is our core activity. Our Sunday services are held weekly at 10:30am and we hold Parade Services for the children belonging to the uniformed organisations to be present on appropriate Sundays of the year. Monthly during spring and summer, we host a Circuit Service at 6pm. We have joint services with All Saints Parish Church once or twice a year alternately at each church.

Weekly pre-recorded worship services produced in collaboration with the Darlington and Teesdale Methodist Circuit are also a part of our regular ministry. Our Pastoral Visitor network remains a much-appreciated source of practical and spiritual friendship and support. The weekly newsletter continues to be circulated widely.

A full range of uniformed groups - Rainbows, Beavers, Brownies, Cubs, Guides, Scouts, Explorer Scouts and Rangers - for children and young people aged 5-24 meet regularly during the week, and we encourage social events involving families. Most of the uniformed groups have a waiting list.

Tiddlywinks, a church run group for parents/carers and young children, meets weekly during term time. Care for the elderly and those who live alone is an important part of our ministry. Elm Ridge Church supports retired/elderly people by providing several groups for friendship, support and fellowship which meet weekly, fortnightly or monthly. In addition, there are study groups for all members of the Church.

Structures:

Elm Ridge Church is part of Darlington and Teesdale Methodist Circuit, which includes ten Methodist Churches located between Darlington and Middleton-in-Teesdale. Elm Ridge is governed by a Church Council (membership listed) meeting at least three times per year, plus an AGM at which all 134 (at August 2023 figure) church members are eligible to attend.

Representatives of the Church Council attend the Circuit Meeting which convenes at least three times a year.

Detailed work on property and finance is delegated to a Finance Committee which reports to the Church Council. The leadership of the Church is through the Stewards' meeting which reports directly to the Church Council.

Trustees of the Registered Charity between September 2022 and August 2023

Trustees of the Registered Charity				
Position	Name	Date appointed to post if in year.	Date left post if in year	Date First Appointed to Church Council
Minister in Pastoral Charge	Rev John Howard	Sept 2022		June 2022
Circuit Presbyter	Rev Graham Cutler			Sept 2020
Circuit Presbyter	Rev Brian Hutton			Sept 2020
Church Council Secretary	David Hall	May 2021		2003
Church Steward	Tony Allen			May 2016
Church Steward	Peter Gallop			2022
Church Steward	Linda Gallop			2022
Church Steward	Polly Vernon	June 2023		2023
Church Steward	Sheenah Adkins	June 2023		2023
Church Treasurer	Stephen Sutcliffe			2009
Pastoral Committee Secretary	Andrea Robson	June 2023		2023
Property Committee	Ian Souter			1999
Finance Committee	David Harris			2002
Safeguarding	Sally Sutcliffe			April 2018
Methodist Homes	Josanne Hall			2005
Methodist Women in Britain	Margaret Wearmouth			May 2021
Elected by General Church Meeting	Jo Cundick			2015
	John Wearmouth			2015
	Malcolm Cundick			2015
	Sara Layfield-Carrol			2016
	Victoria Pelling			2017
	Joe Haves			2021
	Susan Jaleel	13/6/2023		
	Deborah Andrew	13/6/2023		
	Tony Harper	13/6/2023		
Circuit Representative	Valerie Tooth	1/9/2022		2020
Other members of Church Council who are not Trustees of the Charity				
Church Steward	Julie Watson			May 2015
Elected by General Church Meeting	Angela Gibson			2018
Elected by General Church Meeting	Susanne Davison			2018
Elected by General Church Meeting	Alison Dinsdale	1/9/2022		

The composition of the Church Council and method of appointment is determined by Standing Orders relating to the Governance of the Methodist Church in Great Britain
<https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/9157/conf-2018-cpd-vol-2.pdf> page 520. All members are expected to be trustees of the charity unless they specifically decline to do so.

Safeguarding Officers:

Sally Sutcliffe (registered as a trustee)

Performance/achievements over the last year:

We continued to host weekly worship services on Sunday mornings and monthly on an evening. During Advent and Lent, groups met for study, prayer and fellowship. Sadly, the church prayer group ceased meeting, however through the newsletter's weekly prayer points written by members, prayer has continued to be a very important part of our ministry. A newly formed group of musicians and singers added a musical flavour to services celebrating the festivals. All of our Church services are open to any member of the public.

Meetings of Trustees and the various church management committees were held in person. A full programme of activities means that the recruitment and training of new volunteers, including their DBS clearance and safeguarding training is vital and on-going.

For our Harvest Festival, we supported a local food bank with donations of goods. Further donations were also made throughout the year. Events raised funds for Methodist Homes, CRY (Cardiac Risk to the Young) and other local and national charities. The church continued to support fair trade by using fair trade products wherever possible.

Men's Fellowship continued to meet for our members and friends, as did Tiddlywinks (our toddler group). Our regular Monday morning Coffee Drop-in was well attended by members of the local Proboscis group, church family and people from the local community.

A group established to develop the extensive grounds around the property began working in collaboration with Durham Wildlife Trust to develop ways in which the more hidden parts of our church grounds could be used for the benefit of nature and the local community.

A number of volunteers from the church and community came together each week to help maintain the church building, hall and grounds.

A group established to look into the viability of developing a full-time cafe facility on the premises met a number of times throughout the year. Planning permission has been granted and ways to fund the project are under discussion.

Aims and objectives for the coming year:

- To provide varied, relevant and inclusive worship.
- To offer good quality pastoral care to our members and friends.
- To lead people to faith in Christ and nurture and encourage them as disciples of Jesus.
- To explore different ways of worshipping and encourage wider participation by those who use our premises through an emphasis on the festivals.
- To continue to give active support to the wider Methodist Circuit, especially in terms of offering whole-hearted support to working with the other churches to deepen our faith and knowledge of Christianity, taking an active interest in the mission of the Darlington Methodist District and the wider Methodist Connexion.
- To explore opportunities for ecumenical relationships in the context of the Anglican/Methodist Covenant and other initiatives, including supporting 'Churches Together in Darlington'.
- To support voluntary and charitable work around the UK and beyond.
- To continue our programme to identify and train new leaders for several groups, including workers with children and young people.

- To seek appropriate ways to include our local community in the life of the Church and for the Church to build mutually beneficial relationships with the people with whom we come into contact.
- To look at options for the sustainable future of Elm Ridge Church centered on a balanced budget and maximising the use of the buildings and grounds.

Safeguarding Policy:

Elm Ridge adopts the standard Safeguarding Policy for Methodist churches as recommended by the Connexional Methodist Church. The policy is reviewed at least annually and displayed in all buildings and copies provided for all groups using our premises. Posters advising on safeguarding matters and giving helpline details are displayed on notice boards and lavatories. Safeguarding training has been offered during the year at basic and advanced levels to those people that have responsibilities involving children's activities or adults who may be vulnerable. Where required, individuals are also DBS checked at the interval and level advised by Methodist Church Safer Recruitment and Safeguarding Policy.

One minor incident was recorded during the year which was dealt with at the time according to the policy. No further action was required.

Risk Assessment, Property and Health & Safety:

Our Property Committee regularly reviews the risks connected to their areas of work and report to the Church Council appropriately. No major cost items of maintenance were required to the premises during the year. The Risk register was updated again during the year and sums of money allocated from reserves to deal with possible future issues relating to the roof, drainage and trees.

During the year a visitor to the church experienced an accident on the premises resulting in a personal injury claim. This was passed to our insurers who handled the claim and settled without direct cost to the church. The area where the injury occurred has subsequently been improved.

Documents regarding the financial risk of Trusteeship are made available to new Trustees when appointed.

Finance Review for the 12 months ending 31 August 2023:

The Church accounts record a receipts and payments deficit of £11,013 for the year, which was able to be funded from reserves. Investments also decreased by £12,512.

The Reserves and Investment Policies were updated and approved by Managing Trustees.

The Church's investments (other than cash) are held with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.

Signed:.....

16 May 2024

Date:.....

Accounts

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2022

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Page 1	Independent Examiner's Report
Page 2	Receipts and Payments Account
Page 3	Statement of Assets and Liabilities
Pages 4 - 7	Notes to the Accounts
Pages 8 - 11	Trustees Annual Report

Charity Registration Number: 1126826

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees of Elm Ridge Methodist Church

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of Elm Ridge Methodist Church (the Church) for the year ended 31 August 2022, which are set out on pages 2 to 7.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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.

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 as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with these 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.

Signed:

Name: Stephen Watson Gardner

Firm: King Hope

Relevant professional qualification or membership of Professional body (if any):

Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Address: 31 Victoria Road
Darlington
DL1 5SB

Date: 24 March 2023

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

	Note	General Fund (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds (see note 13) £	Unrestricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2022 £	2021 £
RECEIPTS						
Offerings	1	64,148	-	-	64,148	66,003
Donations		5,747	-	-	5,747	1416
Weddings & Funeral Fees (net)		1,299	-	-	1,299	-
Events (net)		2,871	-	-	2,871	-
Room Hire		13,299	-	-	13,299	4,083
Sundry Income	2	1,177	-	-	1,177	1,884
Interest		45	372	120	537	467
Dividends		-	3,818	-	3,818	3,538
Legacies		-	-	-	-	5,000
		88,586	4,190	120	92,896	82,391
Sale of Investments		-	21,697	-	21,697	-
Sale of furniture		1,358	-	-	1,358	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS		89,944	25,887	120	115,951	82,391
PAYMENTS						
Circuit Assessment		57,236	-	-	57,236	57,236
Salaries	3	13,304	-	-	13,304	11,933
Donations	4	1,923	-	-	1,923	554
Premises Costs	5	32,441	-	-	32,441	27,994
Administration expenses	6	7,465	-	-	7,465	9,270
Other expenses	7	15,359	-	-	15,359	2,384
Management charges		-	745	73	818	550
		127,728	745	73	128,546	109,921
Purchase of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	2,969
TOTAL PAYMENTS		127,728	745	73	128,546	112,890
NET RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS)						
FOR THE YEAR		(37,784)	25,142	47	(12,595)	(30,499)
Transfers between Funds		40,195	(40,144)	(51)	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS		2,411	(15,002)	(4)	(12,595)	(30,499)
TOTAL CASH FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD		34,343	92,829	25,473	152,645	183,144
TOTAL CASH FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		36,754	77,827	25,469	140,050	152,645

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2022 £	2021 £
CHURCH CASH FUNDS					
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	10b	25,469	77,827	103,296	118,302
Central Finance Board	12	950	-	950	5,708
Bank Accounts		35,804	-	35,804	28,629
Cash in Hand		-	-	-	6
TOTAL CHURCH CASH FUNDS		62,223	77,827	140,050	152,645
OTHER ASSETS					
Furniture and Equipment	9	73,683	-	73,683	79,261
Investments	10a	-	131,264	131,264	168,508
Debtors and prepayments	11	16,525	-	16,525	14,309
		90,208	131,264	221,472	262,078
LIABILITIES					
Creditors and accruals		3,671	-	3,671	1,941

Approved by the Church Council and signed on its behalf by:-

.....
Stephen Sutcliffe

.....
Revd. John David Howard

Dated: 24 March 2023

The notes on pages 4 to 7 form part of these accounts.

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

1. OFFERINGS	2022	2021
	£	£
Services	3,768	3,304
Standing Orders/Gift Aid	44,782	51,623
Tax Refunds	12,246	10,395
Other	3,352	681
	64,148	66,003
2. SUNDRY INCOME		
Church Flat	480	480
Printing and copying	697	1,404
	1,177	1,884
3. SALARIES		
Secretary	5,701	7,916
Pension	161	479
Others	7,412	7,849
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	-	(4,311)
Payroll admin charge	30	-
	13,304	11,933
The average number of persons employed was 2 (2021 - 2).		
Only 11 payments of salary are shown due to management of payroll to the Methodist Church Central Finance Bureau. August 2022 salaries were paid in September 2022.		
4. DONATIONS MADE		
Connexional	450	-
Others	1,473	554
	1,923	554
5. PREMISES COSTS		
Roof repairs	-	9,080
Maintenance	12,982	7,660
Electric, Gas and Water	13,774	5,444
Insurance	5,685	5,810
	32,441	27,994

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

6. ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES	2022	2021
	£	£
Office expenses	3,860	6,750
Telephone	1,289	527
Bank Charges	186	169
Independent examiners fees	1,890	1,824
Professional fees	240	-
	<u>7,465</u>	<u>9,270</u>

7. OTHER EXPENSES		
Sanctuary Project expenditure	10,648	-
Garden Project expenditure	1,282	1,533
Housekeeping and hygiene	1,474	313
Books & Miscellaneous	1,955	538
	<u>15,359</u>	<u>2,384</u>

8. TRUSTEE REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

Salary costs includes £7,412 (2021: £7,849) paid to a trustee. This is for cleaning work and does not remunerate that person for duties as a trustee. The church flat was rented to a trustee at less than market value until October 2021.

9. FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT

	Organ	Antique	Furniture	Total	Total
	£	Furniture	& Equipment	2022	2021
		£	£	£	£
Written-down value brought forward 1.9.21	54,000	18,043	7,218	79,261	81,870
Additions for the year	-	-	-	-	2,969
Written down value of disposals	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>54,000</u>	<u>18,043</u>	<u>7,218</u>	<u>79,261</u>	<u>84,839</u>
Depreciation for the year	(3,000)	(1,231)	(1,347)	(5,578)	(5,578)
	<u>51,000</u>	<u>16,812</u>	<u>5,871</u>	<u>73,683</u>	<u>79,261</u>

Assets are depreciated by an agreed proportion of the purchase price each year.

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

The antique furniture was valued free of charge by Tennants of Leyburn in 2018. This valuation has been maintained as the basis of the written down value in the accounts.

The organ was revalued at £60,000 by Dr A.J. Henderson on 7 October 2019.

10. TRUSTEES FOR METHODIST CHURCH PURPOSES

This is an investment-receiving body within the Methodist Church. Funds held with them comprise:-

	Restricted Fund £	Unrestricted Fund £	Totals 2022 £	2021 £
a) Investments				
Managed Equity Fund units				
- valuation at 1.9.21	168,508	-	168,508	132,816
- increase/(decrease) in valuation over the year	(15,547)	-	(15,547)	35,692
- sale proceeds	(21,697)	-	(21,697)	-
- valuation at 31.8.22	131,264	-	131,264	168,508
b) Cash Deposits				
Trustees Interest Fund	77,827	25,469	103,296	118,302
	209,091	25,469	234,560	286,810

11. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

In addition to the sum shown, certain receipts from 6 April 2022 to 31 August 2022 will be subject to a future gift aid claim.

12. CENTRAL FINANCE BOARD CASH DEPOSITS

	2022 £	2021 £
General Fund	950	5,708
	950	5,708

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

13. ANALYSIS OF RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Restricted Fund £	Totals	
		2022 £	2021 £
Incoming Cash Resources			
Interest	372	372	371
Dividends	3,818	3,818	3,538
Sale of investments	21,697	21,697	-
Total Incoming Cash Resources	25,887	25,887	3,909
Cash Resources Use			
Management Charges	745	745	499
Total Cash Resources Used	745	745	499
Net Incoming Cash Resources	25,142	25,142	3,410
Transfers to General Fund	(40,144)	(40,144)	(27,409)
Increase/(Decrease) in valuation of investments	(37,244)	(37,244)	35,692
Net movement in funds	(52,246)	(52,246)	11,693
Funds brought forward	261,337	261,337	249,644
Funds carried forward	209,091	209,091	261,337

The carried forward Fund value is represented by:-

	2022 £	2021 £
Cash Deposits	77,827	92,829
Investments	131,264	168,508
	209,091	261,337

Trustees Annual Report and Accounts – year ended 31 August 2022

Accountants: King Hope Chartered Accountants, 31 Victoria Road, Darlington.

Public Benefit:

Elm Ridge Methodist Church provides a seven day a week Christian ministry to the West Darlington neighbourhood. Regular services of worship are at the heart of our mission, and supported by prayer meetings, Home Fellowship groups and pastoral care to members and adherents.

Under normal circumstances, the premises are used extensively for a wide range of activities for all ages and are open to the whole community. The premises are also used by external organisations such as Slimming World, Weight Watchers, the local PACT group, the National Childbirth Trust, Probus, Darlington Choral Society, several art and embroidery groups, Parkinsons UK, and a Lung Cancer Support group. We welcome any organisation provided they do not detract from the Christian ethos of the church. Coffee Drop-In sessions are open to the public and help build relationships with our local community.

The trustees believe they have had due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

Activities:

Christian worship is our core activity. With the lifting of Covid restrictions, worship services in church and our supporting activities reverted back to pre-Covid patterns.

The collaboration with the wider Darlington and Teesdale Methodist Circuit to produce pre-recorded worship services continued throughout the year and these have become part of our regular ministry. Our Pastoral Visitor network remains a much-appreciated source of practical and spiritual friendship and support. The weekly newsletter continued to be circulated widely.

A full range of uniformed groups – Rainbows, Beavers, Brownies, Cubs, Guides, Scouts and Rangers – for children and young people aged 5-24 meet regularly during the week, and we encourage social events involving families. Most of the uniformed groups have a waiting list.

Care for the elderly and those who live alone is an important part of our ministry. Elm Ridge Church supports retired/elderly people by providing several groups for friendship, support, fellowship and instruction which meet weekly, fortnightly or monthly. In addition, there are home study groups (or House Groups) for all members of the Church.

Our Sunday services are held weekly at 10:30am and we hold Parade Services for the children belonging to the uniformed organisations to be present on appropriate Sundays of the year. We have joint services with All Saints Parish Church once or twice a year alternately at each church.

A number of joint services were also held this year with The United Reformed Church who used our church hall for their weekly services whilst their church building was unavailable due to building works. Both congregations met together for fellowship and coffee after their respective services.

Structures:

Elm Ridge Church is part of Darlington and Teesdale Methodist Circuit, which includes 10 Methodist Church societies between Darlington and extending to Middleton-in-Teesdale. The change which had been under consultation for the previous two years formally took effect from 1 September 2021. Elm Ridge is governed by a Church Council (membership listed) meeting at least three times per year, plus an AGM at which all 119 (at August 2022 figure) church members are eligible to attend. Representatives of the Church Council attend the Circuit Meeting which convenes at least three times a year.

Detailed work on property and finance is delegated to a Finance Committee which reports to the Church Council. The leadership of the Church is through the Stewards' meeting which reports directly to the Church Council.

Trustees of the Registered Charity between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022

Trustees of the Registered Charity	1st September 2021 to 31st August 2022				
Position	Name	Date appointed to post if in year.	Date left post if in year	Date First Appointed to Church Council	Note Current Trustee at 24/2/23
Circuit Superintendent Minister	Rev Tim Boocock*		11/8/22	Sept 2020	
Minister in Pastoral Charge	Rev John D. Howard	20/6/22		20/6/22	1
Circuit Presbyter	Rev Graham Cutler			Sept 2020	1
Circuit Presbyter	Rev Brian Hutton			Sept 2020	1
Church Council Secretary	David Hall			2003	1
Church Steward	Mary Everitt		29/6/22	May 2016	
Church Steward	Tony Allen			May 2015	1
Church Steward	Ann Haley		31/1/22	July 2014	
Church Steward	Linda Gallop	14/6/22		14/6/22	1
Church Steward	Peter Gallop	14/6/22		14/6/22	1
Church Treasurer	Stephen Sutcliffe			2009	1
Pastoral Committee Secretary	Stephen Sutcliffe			2009	
Property Committee	Ann Haley			2014	1
	Ian Souter			1999	1
Finance Committee	David Harris			2002	1
Safeguarding	Sally Sutcliffe			April 2018	1
Methodist Homes	Josanne Hall			2005	1
Methodist Women in Britain	Margaret Wearmouth			13/5/21	1
Elected by General Church Meeting					
	Jo Cundick			2015	1
	Rosalind Hollis		12/1/22	2015	
	John Wearmouth			2015	1
	Malcolm Cundick			2015	1
	Margaret McElheran		29/6/22	2016	
	Sara Layfield-Carrol			2016	1
	Victoria Pelling			2017	1
	Ali Dinsdale		4/10/21	2018	
	Joe Haves			2021	1
					20
Other members of Church Council who are not Trustees of the Charity					
Circuit Representative	Hazel Neasham		31/8/22	2020	
Church Steward	Julie Watson			May 2015	
Elected by General Church Meeting	Angela Gibson			2018	
Elected by General Church Meeting	Susanne Davison			2018	
Uniformed Organisations	Holly Turner		15/10/21	2015	
*Action delayed whilst seeking guidance from District Chair					

The composition of the Church Council and method of appointment is determined by Standing Orders relating to the Governance of the Methodist Church in Great Britain
<https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/9157/conf-2018-cpd-vol-2.pdf> page 520. All members are expected to be trustees of the charity unless they specifically decline to do so.

Safeguarding Officers:

Sally Sutcliffe (registered as a Trustee).

Performance/achievements over the last year:

We have continued to host weekly worship services on Sunday mornings, and during the week, various groups meet regularly for Bible study, fellowship and prayer. The Church Prayer Group which has met for many years, continued to do so each Tuesday afternoon to pray for the Church family, the wider community and national and international issues. A new group of musicians and singers was formed to add a musical flavour to services celebrating the festivals. All of our Church services are open to any member of the public.

Meetings of Trustees and the various church management committees were held in person.

A full programme of activities means that the recruitment and training of new volunteers, including their DBS clearance and safeguarding training is vital and on-going.

For our Harvest Festival, we supported a local food bank with donations of goods. Events throughout the year raised funds for Methodist Homes, CRY (Cardiac Risk to the Young) and other local and national charities. The church supports fair trade through one of our members hosting a Traidcraft stall and using its products when it can.

Men's Fellowship continued to meet for our members and friends, as did our toddler group, Tiddlywinks. A regular Monday morning Coffee Drop-in is attended by members of the local Probus group, church family and people from the local community.

A very successful Garden Party was held in the summer with a proportion of the money raised being given to Christian Aid (UK) for its work in Ukraine. A group established to develop the extensive grounds around the property continues to meet to maintain the grounds and look at further areas for development.

A new group was established to look into the viability of developing a full-time cafe facility on the premises.

Aims and objectives for the coming year:

- To provide varied, relevant and inclusive worship.
- To offer good quality pastoral care to our members and friends.
- To lead people to faith in Christ and nurture and encourage them as disciples of Jesus.
- To explore different ways of worshipping and encourage wider participation by those who use our premises through an emphasis on the festivals.
- To continue to give active support to the wider Methodist Circuit, especially in terms of offering whole-hearted support to working with the other churches to deepen our faith and knowledge of Christianity, taking an active interest in the mission of the Darlington Methodist District and the wider Methodist Connexion.
- To explore opportunities for ecumenical relationships in the context of the Anglican/Methodist Covenant and other initiatives, including supporting 'Churches Together in Darlington'.
- To support voluntary and charitable work around the UK and beyond.
- To continue our programme to identify and train new leaders for several groups, including workers with children and young people.
- To seek appropriate ways to include our local community in the life of the Church and for the Church to build mutually beneficial relationships with the people with whom we come into contact.
- To look at options for the sustainable future of Elm Ridge Church centred on a balanced budget and maximising the use of the buildings and grounds.

Safeguarding Policy:

Elm Ridge adopts the standard Safeguarding Policy for Methodist churches as recommended by the Connexional Methodist Church. The policy is displayed in all buildings and copies are provided for all groups using our premises. Posters advising on safeguarding matters and giving helpline details are displayed on notice boards and lavatories. Safeguarding training has been offered during the year at basic and advanced levels to those people that have responsibilities involving children's activities or adults who may be vulnerable. Where required, individuals are also DBS checked at the interval and level advised by Methodist Church Safer Recruitment and Safeguarding Policy.

The Safeguarding Officers are not aware of any incidents of safeguarding concern arising within the year.

Risk Assessment, Property and Health & Safety:

The Property Committee fulfil our legal and Methodist obligations with respect to our property and Health and Safety legislation and standards,

Documents regarding the financial risk of Trusteeship are made available to new Trustees when appointed.

Our Property Committee and Finance Committee regularly review the risks connected to their areas of work and report to the Church Council appropriately. No major cost items of maintenance were required to the premises during the year. The Risk register was updated again during the year and sums of money allocated from reserves to deal with possible future issues relating to the roof, drainage and trees.

Finance Review for the 12 months ending 31 August 2022:

The Church accounts record an operating deficit of £37,784 for the year, including a one-off expenditure of £10,650 to refurbish the worship area in the church building. This now has a contemporary feel with moveable chairs for flexibility, whilst maintaining the nature of the heritage of the building. The deficit was able to be funded from reserves. Cash reserves and investments fell by £49,839.

The Reserves and Investment Policies were updated and approved by Managing Trustees.

The Church's investments (other than cash) are held with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.

Signed:.....

Date:  23 March 2023.....

Accounts

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 AUGUST 2021

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Page 3	Statement of Assets and Liabilities
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Charity Registration Number: 1126826

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees of Elm Ridge Methodist Church

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of Elm Ridge Methodist Church (the Church) for the year ended 31 August 2021, which are set out on pages 2 to 7.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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 Commissioner 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 accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) 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.

Signed:



Name: Stephen Watson Gardner

Firm: King Hope

Relevant professional qualification or membership of Professional body (if any):

Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Address: 31 Victoria Road
Darlington
DL1 5SB

Date: 22 April 2022

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

		General Fund (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds (see note 13)	Unrestricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
	Note	£	£	£	2021 £	2020 £
RECEIPTS						
Offerings	1	66,003	-	-	66,003	64,975
Donations		1,416	-	-	1,416	6,522
Weddings & Funeral Fees (net)		-	-	-	-	-
Events (net)		-	-	-	-	-
Room Hire		4,083	-	-	4,083	13,198
Sundry Income	2	1,884	-	-	1,884	1,637
Sale of furniture		-	-	-	-	966
Interest		10	371	86	467	1,412
Dividends		-	3,538	-	3,538	3,900
Legacies		5,000	-	-	5,000	1,000
TOTAL RECEIPTS		78,396	3,909	86	82,391	93,610
PAYMENTS						
Circuit Assessment		57,236	-	-	57,236	74,408
Salaries	3	11,933	-	-	11,933	13,824
Donations	4	554	-	-	554	2,855
Premises Costs	5	27,994	-	-	27,994	41,722
Administration expenses	6	9,270	-	-	9,270	6,996
Other expenses	7	2,384	-	-	2,384	7,335
Management charges		-	499	51	550	619
		109,371	499	51	109,921	147,759
Purchase of fixed assets		2,969	-	-	2,969	-
TOTAL PAYMENTS		112,340	499	51	112,890	147,759
NET RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS)						
FOR THE YEAR		(33,944)	3,410	35	(30,499)	(54,149)
Transfers between Funds		27,440	(27,409)	(31)	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS		(6,504)	(23,999)	4	(30,499)	(54,149)
TOTAL CASH FUNDS						
BROUGHT FORWARD		40,847	116,828	25,469	183,144	237,293
TOTAL CASH FUNDS						
CARRIED FORWARD		34,343	92,829	25,473	152,645	183,144

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2021 £	2020 £
CHURCH CASH FUNDS					
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	10b	25,473	92,829	118,302	142,297
Central Finance Board	12	5,708	-	5,708	4,100
Bank Accounts		28,629	-	28,629	36,741
Cash in Hand		6	-	6	6
TOTAL CHURCH CASH FUNDS		59,816	92,829	152,645	183,144
OTHER ASSETS					
Furniture and Equipment	9	79,261	-	79,261	81,870
Investments	10a	-	168,508	168,508	132,816
Debtors and prepayments	11	14,309	-	14,309	14,309
		93,570	168,508	262,078	228,995
LIABILITIES					
Creditors and accruals		1,941	-	1,941	2,080

Approved by the Church Council and signed on its behalf by:-


.....
Stephen Sutcliffe


.....
~~Revd. Tim Boocock~~

REVD GRAMM CUTLER

Dated: 22 - APR - 2022

The notes on pages 4 to 7 form part of these accounts.

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1. OFFERINGS	2021	2020
	£	£
Services	3,304	11,888
Standing Orders/Gift Aid	51,623	37,195
Tax Refunds	10,395	14,326
Other	681	1,566
	66,003	64,975
2. SUNDRY INCOME		
Church Flat	480	480
Printing and copying	1,404	1,157
	1,884	1,637
3. SALARIES		
Secretary	7,916	7,660
Pension	479	467
Others	7,849	7,781
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	(4,311)	(2,084)
	11,933	13,824
The average number of persons employed was 2 (2020 - 2).		
4. DONATIONS MADE		
Connexional	-	575
Others	554	2,280
	554	2,855
5. PREMISES COSTS		
Roof repairs	9,080	-
Maintenance	7,660	28,261
Electric, Gas and Water	5,444	7,179
Insurance	5,810	6,282
	27,994	41,722

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

6. ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES	2021 £	2020 £
Office expenses	6,750	4,318
Telephone	527	794
Bank Charges	169	120
Independent examiners fees	1,824	1,764
	9,270	6,996

7. OTHER EXPENSES		
Garden Project expenditure	1,533	4,488
Garden Project income	-	(250)
Housekeeping	313	1,925
Books & Miscellaneous	538	1,172
	2,384	7,335

8. TRUSTEE REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

Salary costs includes £7,849 (2020: £7,781) paid to a trustee. This is for cleaning work and does not remunerate that person for duties as a trustee. The church flat was rented to a trustee at less than market value.

9. FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT

	Organ £	Antique Furniture £	Furniture & Equipment £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Written-down value brought forward 1.9.20	57,000	19,274	5,596	81,870	31,517
Additions for the year	-	-	2,969	2,969	-
Revaluation during the year	-	-	-	-	60,000
Written down value of disposals	-	-	-	-	(4,366)
	57,000	19,274	8,565	84,839	87,151
Depreciation for the year	(3,000)	(1,231)	(1,347)	(5,578)	(5,281)
Written-down value carried forward 31.8.21	54,000	18,043	7,218	79,261	81,870

Assets are depreciated by an agreed proportion of the purchase price each year.

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

The antique furniture was valued free of charge by Tennants of Leyburn in 2018. This valuation has been maintained as the basis of the written down value in the accounts.

The organ was revalued at £60,000 by Dr A.J. Henderson on 7 October 2019.

10. TRUSTEES FOR METHODIST CHURCH PURPOSES

This is an investment-receiving body within the Methodist Church. Funds held with them comprise:-

	Restricted Fund £	Unrestricted Fund £	Totals 2021 £	2020 £
a) Investments				
Managed Equity Fund units				
- valuation at 1.9.20	132,816	-	132,816	147,093
- increase/(decrease) in valuation over the year	35,692	-	35,692	(14,277)
- valuation at 31.8.21	168,508	-	168,508	132,816
b) Cash Deposits				
Trustees Interest Fund	92,829	25,473	118,302	142,297
	261,337	25,473	286,810	275,113

11. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

In addition to the sums shown, certain receipts from 6 April 2021 to 31 August 2021 will be subject to a future gift aid claim.

12. CENTRAL FINANCE BOARD CASH DEPOSITS

	2021 £	2020 £
General Fund	5,708	4,100
	5,708	4,100

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

13. ANALYSIS OF RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Restricted Fund £	Totals	
		2021 £	2020 £
Incoming Cash Resources			
Interest	371	371	1,051
Dividends	3,538	3,538	3,900
Total Incoming Cash Resources	3,909	3,909	4,951
Cash Resources Use			
Management Charges	499	499	568
Total Cash Resources Used	499	499	568
Net Incoming Cash Resources	3,410	3,410	4,383
Transfers to General Fund	(27,409)	(27,409)	(24,383)
Increase/(Decrease) in valuation of investments	35,692	35,692	(14,277)
Net movement in funds	11,693	11,693	(34,277)
Funds brought forward	249,644	249,644	283,921
Funds carried forward	261,337	261,337	249,644

The carried forward Fund value is represented by:-

	2021 £	2020 £
Cash Deposits	92,829	116,828
Investments	168,508	132,816
	261,337	249,644

Elm Ridge Methodist Church, Darlington

Registered Charity No: 1126826

Tel: 01325 282491 | Email: office@elmridgemethodist.co.uk | www.elmridgemethodist.org.uk

Trustees Annual Report and Accounts – year ended August 31st 2021

Accountants: King Hope Chartered Accountants, 31 Victoria Road, Darlington.

Public Benefit:

Elm Ridge Methodist Church provides a seven day a week Christian ministry to the West Darlington neighbourhood. Regular services of worship are at the heart of our mission, and supported by prayer meetings, Home Fellowship groups and pastoral care to members and adherents.

Under normal circumstances, the premises are used extensively for a wide range of activities for all ages and are open to the whole community. The premises are also used by external organisations such as Slimming World, Weight Watchers, the local PACT group, the National Childbirth Trust, Probus, Darlington Choral Society, several art and embroidery groups, Parkinsons UK, and a Lung Cancer Support group. We welcome any organisation provided they do not detract from the Christian ethos of the church. Coffee Drop-In sessions are open to the public and help build relationships with our local community.

The trustees believe they have had due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

Activities:

Worship services in church and our supporting activities continued to be restricted by the Covid-19 pandemic throughout the year. Trustees complied with national regulations and guidance from the Methodist Church as to when the church was allowed to be open. The premises were made available to outside support organisations who met as the regulations allowed.

The collaboration with the wider Darlington Methodist Circuit to produce pre-recorded worship services continued throughout the year and these have become part of our regular ministry. Our Pastoral Visitor network remains a much-appreciated source of practical and spiritual, friendship and support. The weekly newsletter continued to be circulated widely and we keep our communications under review as we emerge from the pandemic.

Under normal circumstances, a full range of uniformed groups – Rainbows, Beavers, Brownies, Cubs, Guides, Scouts and Rangers – for children and young people aged 5-24 normally meet regularly during the week, and we encourage social events involving families. Most of the uniformed groups have a waiting list.

Care for the elderly and those who live alone is an important part of our ministry. Elm Ridge Church supports retired/elderly people by providing several groups for friendship, support, fellowship and instruction which meet weekly, fortnightly or monthly. In addition, there are home study groups (or House Groups) for all members of the Church.

Our Sunday services are normally held weekly at 10:30am and we hold Parade Services for the children belonging to the uniformed organisations to be present on appropriate Sundays of the year. We have joint services with All Saints Parish Church once or twice a year alternately at each church.

Structures:

Elm Ridge Church is part of Darlington Methodist Circuit, which includes 6 Methodist Churches in the Darlington area. During the year it was agreed to merge with the Barnard Castle and Teesdale Circuit so forming an extended *Darlington and Teesdale Circuit* including three further Methodist societies. The change formally took effect from Sept 1st 2021. Elm Ridge is governed by a Church Council (membership listed) meeting at least three times per year, plus an AGM at which all 134 (at August 2021 figure) church members are eligible to attend. Representatives of the Church Council attend the Circuit Meeting which convenes at least three times a year.

Detailed work on property and finance is delegated to a Finance Committee which reports to the Church Council. The leadership of the Church is through the Stewards' meeting which reports directly to the Church Council.

Trustees of the Registered Charity between September 2020 and August 2021

Trustees of the Registered Charity				
Position	Name	Date appointed to post if in year.	Date left post if in year	Date First Appointed to Church Council
Circuit Superintendent Minister	Rev Tim Boocock	Sept 2020		Sept 2020
Circuit Presbyter	Rev Graham Cutler	Sept 2020		Sept 2020
Circuit Presbyter	Rev Brian Hutton	Sept 2020		Sept 2020
Church Council Secretary	David Hall	May 2021		2003
Church Steward	Mary Everitt			May 2016
Church Steward	Tony Allen			May 2015
Church Steward	Ann Haley			July 2014
Church Treasurer	Stephen Sutcliffe			2009
Pastoral Committee Secretary	Stephen Sutcliffe			2009
Property Committee	Ann Haley			2014
Finance Committee	David Harris			2002
Safeguarding	Sally Sutcliffe			April 2018
	Val Johnson		13/5/21	April 2018
Methodist Homes	Josanne Hall			2005
Methodist Women in Britain Elected by General Church Meeting	Margaret Wearmouth	13/5/21		May 2021
	Linda Gallop		13/5/21	2011
	Jo Cundick			2015
	Peter Gallop		13/5/21	2013
	Rosalind Hollis			2015
	John Wearmouth			2015
	Malcolm Cundick			2015
	Richard McElheran		13/5/21	2016
	Margaret McElheran			2016
	Sara Layfield-Carrol			2016
	Victoria Pelling			2017
	Ali Dinsdale			2018
	Joe Haves	13/5/21		2021
Circuit Representative	Hazel Neasham			2020
Other members of Church Council who are not Trustees of the Charity				
Church Steward Elected by General Church Meeting	Julie Watson			May 2015
Elected by General Church Meeting	Angela Gibson			2018
Elected by General Church Meeting	Susanne Davison			2018
Uniformed Organisations	Holly Turner			2015

The composition of the Church Council and method of appointment is determined by Standing Orders relating to the Governance of the Methodist Church in Great Britain <https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/9157/conf-2018-cpd-vol-2.pdf> page 520. All members are expected to be trustees of the charity unless they specifically decline to do so.

Safeguarding Officers:

Sally Sutcliffe (registered as a Trustee) and Val Johnson (not a Trustee prior to 13 May 2021).

Performance/achievements over the last year:

Subject to covid19 restrictions we have continued to host weekly worship services on Sunday mornings, and during the week various groups meet regularly for Bible study, fellowship and prayer. The Church Prayer Group which has met for many years, continued to do so each Tuesday morning to pray for the Church family, the wider community and national and international issues. The Worship Group of musicians and singers often lead our services. All of our Church services are open to any member of the public.

Meetings of Trustees and the various church management committees were held on-line.

A full programme of activities means that the recruitment and training of new volunteers, including their DBS clearance and safeguarding training is vital and on-going.

For our Harvest Festival we supported a local food bank with donations of goods. Events through the year raised funds for Methodist Homes, CRY (Cardiac Risk to the Young) and other local and national charities. The church supports fair trade through one of our members hosting a Traidcraft stall and using its products when it can.

Men's Fellowship continued to meet as permitted for our members and friends, as did our toddler group Tiddlywinks.

Our annual Garden Party is a major event for the church, but sadly had to be cancelled this year. A group which had been established to develop the extensive grounds around the property been able continued during lockdown.

Aims and objectives for the coming year:

1. To provide varied, relevant and inclusive worship, as covid19 restrictions allow.
2. To offer good quality pastoral care to our members and friends.
3. To lead people to faith in Christ and nurture and encourage them as disciples of Jesus.
4. To explore different ways of worshipping e.g. Forest Church.
5. To continue to give active support to the wider Methodist Circuit, especially in terms of offering whole-hearted support to working with the other churches to deepen our faith and knowledge of Christianity, taken an active interest in the mission of the Darlington Methodist District and the wider Methodist Connexion.
6. To explore opportunities for ecumenical relationships in the context of the Anglican/Methodist Covenant and other initiatives, including supporting 'Churches Together in Darlington'.
7. To support voluntary and charitable work around the UK and beyond.
8. To continue our programme to identify and train new leaders for several groups, including workers with children and young people.
9. To seek appropriate ways to include our local community in the life of the Church and for the Church to build mutually beneficial relationships with the people with whom we come into contact.
10. To look at options for the sustainable future of Elm Ridge Church centred on a balanced budget and maximising the use of the buildings and grounds

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Elm Ridge adopts the standard Safeguarding Policy for Methodist churches as recommended by the Connexional Methodist Church. The policy is displayed in all buildings and copies provided for all groups using our premises. Posters advising on safeguarding matters and giving helpline details are displayed on notice boards and lavatories. Safeguarding training has been offered during the year at basic and advanced levels to those people that have responsibilities involving children's activities or adults who may be vulnerable. Where required, individuals are also DBS checked at the interval and level advised by Methodist Church Safer Recruitment and Safeguarding Policy.

The Safeguarding Officers are not aware of any incidents of safeguarding concern arising within the year.

Risk Assessment, Property and Health & Safety:

Risk assessments continued to be updated throughout the year; specifically relating to the capability of the building to host activities under covid19 restrictions as regulations and guidance changed.

Documents regarding the financial risk of Trusteeship are made available to new Trustees when appointed.

Our Property Committee and Finance Committee regularly review the risks connected to their areas of work and report to the Church Council appropriately. No major cost items of maintenance were required to the premises during the year. The Risk register was updated again during the year and sums of money allocated from reserves to deal with possible future issues relating to the roof, drainage and trees.

Finance Review for the 12 months ending August 31st 2021:

The Church accounts record an operating deficit of £30,499 for the year, which was able to be funded from reserves, which increased by £35,692 due to a recovery in the value of investments.

The Church was able to benefit from the CJRS to the value of £4,311

The Reserves and Investment Policies were updated and approved by Managing Trustees.

The Church's investments (other than cash) are held with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.

Signed:.....

Date:.....22 - Apr - 2022.....

Accounts

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 AUGUST 2020

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Charity Registration Number: 1126826

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

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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 accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) 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.

Signed:

Name: Stephen Watson Gardner

Firm: King Hope

Relevant professional qualification or membership of
Professional body (if any):

Institute of Chartered Accountants in
England and Wales

Address: 31 Victoria Road
Darlington
DL1 5SB

Date: 28 May 2021

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

		General Fund (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds (see note 13)	Unrestricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
	Note	£	£	£	2020 £	2019 £
RECEIPTS						
Offerings	1	64,975	-	-	64,975	66,053
Donations		6,522	-	-	6,522	9,406
Weddings & Funeral Fees (net)		-	-	-	-	380
Events (net)		-	-	-	-	1,564
Room Hire		13,198	-	-	13,198	16,083
Sundry Income	2	1,637	-	-	1,637	3,098
Sale of furniture		966	-	-	966	-
Interest		142	1,051	219	1,412	1,747
Dividends		-	3,900	-	3,900	4,384
Legacies		1,000	-	-	1,000	100
TOTAL RECEIPTS		88,440	4,951	219	93,610	102,815
PAYMENTS						
Circuit Assessment	14	74,408	-	-	74,408	46,258
Salaries	3	13,824	-	-	13,824	15,330
Donations	4	2,855	-	-	2,855	5,292
Premises Costs	5	41,722	-	-	41,722	30,113
Administration expenses	6	6,996	-	-	6,996	8,687
Other expenses	7	7,335	-	-	7,335	6,205
Management charges		-	568	51	619	693
TOTAL PAYMENTS		147,140	568	51	147,759	112,578
NET RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS)						
FOR THE YEAR		(58,700)	4,383	168	(54,149)	(9,763)
Transfers between Funds		24,599	(24,383)	(216)	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS		(34,101)	(20,000)	(48)	(54,149)	(9,763)
TOTAL CASH FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD		74,948	136,828	25,517	237,293	247,056
TOTAL CASH FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		40,847	116,828	25,469	183,144	237,293

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2020 £	2019 £
CHURCH CASH FUNDS					
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	10b	25,469	116,828	142,297	162,297
Central Finance Board	12	4,100	-	4,100	36,497
Bank Accounts		36,741	-	36,741	38,484
Cash in Hand		6	-	6	15
TOTAL CHURCH CASH FUNDS		<u>66,316</u>	<u>116,828</u>	<u>183,144</u>	<u>237,293</u>
OTHER ASSETS					
Furniture and Equipment	9	81,870	-	81,870	31,517
Investments	10a	-	132,816	132,816	147,093
Debtors and prepayments	11	14,309	-	14,309	17,075
		<u>96,179</u>	<u>132,816</u>	<u>228,995</u>	<u>195,685</u>
LIABILITIES					
Creditors and accruals	14	2,080	-	2,080	23,175
		<u>2,080</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,080</u>	<u>23,175</u>

Approved by the Church Council and signed on its behalf by:-


.....
Stephen Sutcliffe


.....
Revd. Tim Boocock

Dated: 27/5/2021

The notes on pages 4 to 7 form part of these accounts.

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1. OFFERINGS	2020	2019
	£	£
Services	11,888	18,616
Standing Orders/Gift Aid	37,195	34,208
Tax Refunds	14,326	11,029
Other	1,566	2,200
	64,975	66,053
2. SUNDRY INCOME		
Church Flat	480	1,073
Flat - council tax	-	(595)
Printing and copying	1,157	2,620
	1,637	3,098
3. SALARIES		
Secretary	7,660	7,444
Pension	467	518
Others	7,781	7,368
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	(2,084)	-
	13,824	15,330
The average number of persons employed was 2 (2019 - 2).		
4. DONATIONS MADE		
Connexional	575	1,470
Others	2,280	3,822
	2,855	5,292
5. PREMISES COSTS		
New cooker	-	3,120
Maintenance	28,261	14,585
Electric, Gas and Water	7,179	8,700
Insurance	6,282	3,708
	41,722	30,113

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

6. ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES	2020 £	2019 £
Office expenses	4,318	5,654
Telephone	794	1,179
Bank Charges	120	150
Independent examiners fees	1,764	1,704
	6,996	8,687
7. OTHER EXPENSES		
Legal fees re use of flat	-	150
Garden Project expenditure	4,488	3,588
Garden Project income	(250)	(50)
Housekeeping	1,925	1,242
Books & Miscellaneous	1,172	1,275
	7,335	6,205

8. TRUSTEE REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

Salary costs includes £7,781 (2019: £7,368) paid to a trustee. This is for cleaning work and does not remunerate that person for duties as a trustee. The church flat was rented to a trustee at less than market value.

9. FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT

	Organ £	Antique Furniture £	Furniture & Equipment £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Written-down value brought forward 1.9.19	-	24,871	6,646	31,517	36,408
Additions for the year	-	-	-	-	3,120
Revaluation during the year	60,000	-	-	60,000	-
Written down value of disposals	-	(4,366)	-	(4,366)	
	60,000	20,505	6,646	87,151	39,528
Depreciation for the year	(3,000)	(1,231)	(1,050)	(5,281)	(8,011)
Written-down value carried forward 31.8.20	57,000	19,274	5,596	81,870	31,517

Assets are depreciated by an agreed proportion of the purchase price each year.

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

The antique furniture was valued free of charge by Tennants of Leyburn in 2018. This valuation has been maintained as the basis of the written down value in the accounts.

The organ was revalued at £60,000 by Dr A.J. Henderson on 7 October 2019.

Several items of antique furniture were sold in September 2019 for £966.

10. TRUSTEES FOR METHODIST CHURCH PURPOSES

This is an investment-receiving body within the Methodist Church. Funds held with them comprise:-

	Restricted Fund £	Unrestricted Fund £	Totals 2020 £	2019 £
a) Investments				
Managed Equity Fund units				
- valuation at 1.9.19	147,093	-	147,093	149,377
- decrease in valuation over the year	(14,277)	-	(14,277)	(2,284)
- valuation at 31.8.20	132,816	-	132,816	147,093
b) Cash Deposits				
Trustees Interest Fund	116,828	25,469	142,297	162,297
	249,644	25,469	275,113	309,390

11. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

In addition to the sums shown, certain receipts from 6 April 2020 to 31 August 2020 will be subject to a future gift aid claim.

12. CENTRAL FINANCE BOARD CASH DEPOSITS

	2020 £	2019 £
General Fund	4,100	36,448
Unrestricted Funds	-	49
	4,100	36,497

ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

13. ANALYSIS OF RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Restricted Fund £	Totals 2020 £	2019 £
Incoming Cash Resources			
Interest	1,051	1,051	1,420
Dividends	3,900	3,900	4,384
Total Incoming Cash Resources	4,951	4,951	5,804
Cash Resources Use			
Management Charges	568	568	642
Total Cash Resources Used	568	568	642
Net Incoming Cash Resources	4,383	4,383	5,162
Transfers to General Fund	(24,383)	(24,383)	(40,162)
Decrease/Increase in valuation of investments	(14,277)	(14,277)	(2,284)
Net movement in funds	(34,277)	(34,277)	(35,284)
Funds brought forward	283,921	283,921	321,205
Funds carried forward	249,644	249,644	283,921

The carried forward Fund value is represented by:-

	2020 £	2019 £
Cash Deposits	116,828	136,828
Investments	132,816	147,093
	249,644	283,921

14. CREDITORS AND ACCRUALS

Last year, creditors and accruals included £15,648 which related to the 2018/19 third quarter circuit assessment that was not collected until 26 September 2019.

Elm Ridge Methodist Church, Darlington

Registered Charity No: 1126826

Tel: 01325 282491 | Email: office@elmridgemethodist.co.uk | www.elmridgemethodist.org.uk

Trustees Annual Report and Accounts – year ended August 31st 2020

Accountants: King Hope Chartered Accountants, 31 Victoria Road, Darlington.

Public Benefit:

Elm Ridge Methodist Church provides a seven day a week Christian ministry to the West Darlington neighbourhood. Regular services of worship are at the heart of our mission, and supported by prayer meetings, Home Fellowship groups and pastoral care to members and adherents.

The premises are used extensively for a wide range of activities for all ages and are open to the whole community. The premises are also used by external organisations such as Slimming World, Weight Watchers, the local PACT group, the National Childbirth Trust, Probus, several art and embroidery groups, the Richardson Singers, Parkinsons UK, Lung Cancer Support group, baby singing group and an aerobics group. We welcome any organisation provided they do not detract from the Christian ethos of the church. Two weekly Coffee Drop-In sessions are open to the public and help build relationships with our local community.

The trustees believe they have had due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

Activities:

Our ability to hold worship services and host other support and social activities was obviously affected by the Covid19 pandemic in the second half of the year. The premises were closed to the public and staff worked from home from the end of March 2020 according to government restrictions. Sunday worship services restarted in August 2020 with the necessary social distancing guidelines, and some Uniformed Organisations were able to meet outdoors.

During the lockdown, Elm Ridge church collaborated with the wider Darlington Methodist Circuit to provide pre-recorded services on YouTube and Facebook which attracted 150-200 viewings. Every member of the Church is allocated a Pastoral Visitor who kept in regular contact with members and friends during lockdown, and in some cases provided practical help with shopping and collecting medicines. A newsletter was produced weekly and circulated to all members either by email or post and the pastoral support was much appreciated.

Under normal circumstances, a full range of uniformed groups – Rainbows, Beavers, Brownies, Cubs, Guides, Scouts and Rangers – for children and young people aged 5-24 normally meet regularly during the week, and we encourage social events involving families. Most of the uniformed groups have a waiting list.

Elm Ridge Church supports retired/elderly people by providing several groups for friendship, support, fellowship and instruction which meet weekly, fortnightly or monthly. A monthly lunch club, held in conjunction with Age UK, where all are welcome provides another opportunity to meet together. In addition, there are home study groups (or House Groups) for all members of the Church.

Our Sunday services are normally held weekly at 10:30am and monthly at 6pm and we hold Parade Services for the children belonging to the uniformed organisations to be present on appropriate Sundays of the year. We have joint services with All Saints Parish Church once or twice a year alternately at each church.

Structures:

Elm Ridge Church is part of Darlington Methodist Circuit, which includes 8 Methodist Churches in the Darlington area. It is governed by a Church Council (membership listed) meeting at least three times per year, plus an AGM at which all 141 (at August 2020 figure) church members are eligible to attend. Representatives of the Church Council attend the Circuit Meeting which convenes at least three times a year.

Detailed work on property and finance is delegated to a Finance Committee which reports to the Church Council. The leadership of the Church is through the Stewards' meeting which reports directly to the Church Council.

Trustees of the Registered Charity between September 2019 and August 2020

Position	Name	Date appointed
Circuit Minister	Rev. Solomon Joseph	Sept 2018
<i>Members of the Church Council and Trustees by virtue of their specific role in the Church organisation</i>		
Church Council Secretary	Angela Gibson (until October 2019)	March 2018
Church Stewards	Mary Everitt*	May 2016
	Tony Allen	May 2015
	Julie Watson**	May 2015
	Brian White (To Jan 2020)*	May 2015
	Ann Haley	July 2014
Church Treasurer	Stephen Sutcliffe*	2009
Pastoral Committee Secretary	Sue Colley (to May 2019)	2013
<i>Representatives appointed to cover Church life: appointed by the General Church Meeting.</i>		
Property Committee	Ann Haley – Chair	2014
	Ian Souter – Secretary	1999
Finance Committee	David Harris – Chair	2002
	David Hall - Secretary*	2003
Safeguarding	Sally Sutcliffe	April 2018
	Val Johnson	April 2018
Uniformed Organisations	Holly Turner**	2015
Methodist Homes	Josanne Hall	2005
<i>Representatives elected by the General Church Meeting</i>		
	Jean Sharp (to May 2019)	2010
	Linda Gallop	2011
	Jo Cundick	2015
	Angela Gibson	2018
	Peter Gallop	2013
	Rosalind Hollis	2015
	John Wearmouth	2015
	Malcolm Cundick	2015
	Richard McElheran*	2016
	Margaret McElheran	2016
	Sara Layfield-Carrol	2016
	Victoria Pelling	2017
	Susanne Davison	2018
	Ali Dinsdale*	2018
Circuit Representative	Margaret Garrett	2016

* Representatives to the Circuit Meeting

** Non-voting members of the Church Council / not registered Trustees

The composition of the Church Council and method of appointment is determined by Standing Orders relating to the Governance of the Methodist Church in Great Britain <https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/9157/conf-2018-cpd-vol-2.pdf> page 520. All members are expected to be trustees of the charity unless they specifically decline to do so.

Safeguarding Officers:

Sally Sutcliffe (registered as a Trustee) and Val Johnson (not a Trustee).

Performance/achievements over the last year:

Subject to covid19 restrictions we have continued to host weekly worship services on Sunday mornings, and shared evening services with other Methodist churches in Darlington, and during the week, various groups meet regularly for Bible study, fellowship and prayer. The Church Prayer Group which has met for many years, continued to do so each Tuesday morning to pray for the Church family, the wider community and national and international issues. The Worship Group of musicians and singers often lead our services. All of our Church services are open to any member of the public.

Meetings of Trustees and the various church management committees were held on-line.

A full programme of activities means that the recruitment and training of new volunteers, including their DBS clearance and safeguarding training is vital and on-going.

For our Harvest Festival, we hosted visitors from Compassion UK, an organisation who promote the health and education of children worldwide and £600 was raised for their efforts. Christmas collections raised £204 to NCH Action for Children, and a total of £508 was raised for Christian Aid. Other events through the year also raised funds for Methodist Homes, CRY (Cardiac Risk to the Young) other local and national charities. The church supports fair trade through one of our members hosting a Traidcraft stall and using its products when it can.

We put on 'Journey to Bethlehem', a dramatic telling of the nativity story by church and circuit members, making use of our premises and grounds, over three nights in the week before Christmas. This was very much appreciated by the 450 visitors we hosted, and enjoyed by all who came and also took part. We hope to repeat this in a future year.

Women's Fellowship and Men's Fellowship continued to meet as permitted for our members and friends, as did our toddler group Tiddlywinks.

Our annual Garden Party is a major event for the church, but sadly had to be cancelled this year. A group has been established to develop the extensive grounds around the property, and this has been able to continue during lockdown. During the year we extended the patio area to provide a wider area for children and adults to use, and also refreshed a Prayer Trail through the wooded areas around the perimeter.

At the end of the year we said farewell to our Minister, Rev Solomon Joseph, who returned to India and retirement. We welcome his successor to pastoral charge of our church and superintendent minister, Rev Tim Boocock who joins us from Leeds.

Aims and objectives for the coming year:

1. To provide varied, relevant and inclusive worship, as covid19 restrictions allow.
2. To offer good quality pastoral care to our members and friends
3. To lead people to faith in Christ and nurture and encourage them as disciples of Jesus.
4. To continue to give active support to the wider Methodist Circuit, especially in terms of offering whole-hearted support to working with the other churches to deepen our faith and knowledge of Christianity, taken an active interest in the mission of the Darlington Methodist District and the wider Methodist Connexion.
5. To explore opportunities for ecumenical relationships in the context of the Anglican/Methodist Covenant and other initiatives, including supporting 'Churches Together in Darlington'.
6. To support voluntary and charitable work around the UK and beyond.
7. To continue our programme to identify and train new leaders for several groups, including workers with children and young people
8. To seek appropriate ways to include our local community in the life of the Church and for the Church to build mutually beneficial relationships with the people with whom we come into contact

9. To look at options for the sustainable future of Elm Ridge Church centred on a balanced budget and maximising the use of the buildings and grounds

Safeguarding Policy:

The Safeguarding Policy is updated regularly in line with Methodist policy guidance. The policy is displayed in all buildings and copies provided for all groups using our premises. Posters advising on safeguarding matters and giving helpline details are displayed on notice boards and lavatories. Safeguarding training has been offered during the year at basic and advanced levels to those people that have responsibilities involving children's activities or adults who may be vulnerable. Where required, individuals are also DBS checked at the interval and level advised by Methodist Church Safer Recruitment and Safeguarding Policy.

The Safeguarding Officers are not aware of any incidents of safeguarding concern arising within the year.

Risk Assessment, Property and Health & Safety:

Risk assessments have continued throughout the year; specifically relating to the capability of the building to host activities under covid19 restrictions.

The quinquennial property inspection was carried out in February 2020 and only minor defects were noted: most of these have been addressed and a plan exists to complete the other actions. The site contains a number of mature trees which have required attention throughout the year, and some major roof repairs have had to be carried out. A programme of work was completed to remove or seal asbestos-containing material as a result of an earlier survey.

Documents regarding the financial risk of Trusteeship are made available to new Trustees when appointed.

Our Property Committee and Finance Committee regularly review the risks connected to their areas of work and report to the Church Council appropriately. The Risk register was updated during the year and sums of money allocated from reserves to deal with possible future issues relating to the roof, drainage and trees.

Finance Review for the 12 months ending August 31st 2020:

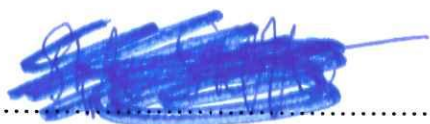
The Church accounts record an operating deficit in cash flow terms of £54,149 for the year, which was able to be funded from reserves.

A payment to Darlington Methodist Circuit (£15.6K) was brought forward from 2018/9, and unbudgeted expenditure on the property (£23.4K) means the underlying deficit was £15.1K, against a budget deficit of £24.8K.

The Church was able to benefit from the CJRS to the value of £2,084.

The Reserves and Investment Policies were updated and approved by Managing Trustees.

The Church's investments (other than cash) are held with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.

Signed:.....

Date:.....27/5/21.....