

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

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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**31 AUGUST 2023**

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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 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.

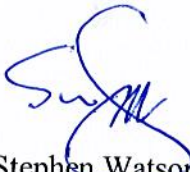
### *Independent examiner's statement*

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
					£	£
<b>RECEIPTS</b>						
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	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		76,740	5,797	808	83,345	92,896
Sale of Investments		-	15,786	-	15,786	21,697
Sale of furniture		-	-	-	-	1,358
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>76,740</b>	<b>21,583</b>	<b>808</b>	<b>99,131</b>	<b>115,951</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>						
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
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		109,475	596	73	110,144	128,546
Purchase of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b>109,475</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>110,144</b>	<b>128,546</b>
<b>NET RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS)</b>						
<b>FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>(32,735)</b>	<b>20,987</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>(11,013)</b>	<b>(12,595)</b>
Transfers between Funds		40,936	(40,201)	(735)	-	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS</b>		<b>8,201</b>	<b>(19,214)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(11,013)</b>	<b>(12,595)</b>
<b>TOTAL CASH FUNDS</b>						
<b>BROUGHT FORWARD</b>		<b>36,754</b>	<b>77,827</b>	<b>25,469</b>	<b>140,050</b>	<b>152,645</b>
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL CASH FUNDS</b>		<b>44,955</b>	<b>58,613</b>	<b>25,469</b>	<b>129,037</b>	<b>140,050</b>
<b>CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

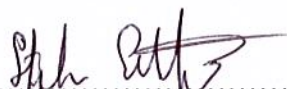
# ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH


## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 £	2022 £
<b>CHURCH CASH FUNDS</b>					
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		-	-	-	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL CHURCH CASH FUNDS</b>		<b>70,424</b>	<b>58,613</b>	<b>129,037</b>	<b>140,050</b>
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>OTHER ASSETS</b>					
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
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		<b>93,332</b>	<b>118,752</b>	<b>212,084</b>	<b>221,472</b>
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>					
Creditors and accruals		17,201	-	17,201	3,671
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

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**

<b>6. PREMISES COSTS</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Insurance Proceeds	(2,216)	-
Maintenance	15,290	12,982
Electric, Gas and Water	15,449	13,774
Insurance	6,273	5,685
	<u>34,796</u>	<u>32,441</u>
<b>7. ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES</b>		
Office expenses	2,731	3,860
Telephone	806	1,289
Bank Charges	121	186
Independent examiners fees	1,980	1,890
Professional fees	-	240
	<u>5,638</u>	<u>7,465</u>
<b>8. OTHER EXPENSES</b>		
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
	<u>4,747</u>	<u>15,359</u>
<b>9. TRUSTEE REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES</b>		

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**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
General Fund	27,314	950
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	27,314	950
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH**

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

**14. ANALYSIS OF RESTRICTED FUNDS**

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

The carried forward Fund value is represented by:-

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

# **Elm Ridge Methodist Church, Darlington**

Registered Charity No: 1126826

Tel: 01325 282491 | Email: [office@elmridgemethodist.co.uk](mailto:office@elmridgemethodist.co.uk) | [www.elmridgemethodist.org.uk](http://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

<b>Trustees of the Registered Charity</b>				
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
<b>Other members of Church Council who are not Trustees of the Charity</b>				
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:.....