

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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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 2024, 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:

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
		109,891	58,215	1,347	169,453	83,345
Sale of Investments		-	-	-	-	15,786
Insurance Claim Proceeds		3,358	-	-	3,358	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS		113,249	58,215	1,347	172,811	99,131
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
		135,127	1,305	73	136,505	110,144
Purchase of fixed assets		2,562	-	-	2,562	-
TOTAL PAYMENTS		137,689	1,305	73	139,067	110,144
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)	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS		(17,856)	51,600	-	33,744	(11,013)
TOTAL CASH FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD		44,955	58,613	25,469	129,037	140,050
TOTAL CASH FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		27,099	110,213	25,469	162,781	129,037

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		-	-	-	-
		<u>52,568</u>	<u>110,213</u>	<u>162,781</u>	<u>129,037</u>
TOTAL CHURCH CASH FUNDS					
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
		<u>81,700</u>	<u>133,876</u>	<u>215,576</u>	<u>212,084</u>
LIABILITIES					
Creditors and accruals		<u>17,632</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,632</u>	<u>17,201</u>

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>
	<u><u>17,003</u></u>	<u><u>18,043</u></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>
	<u><u>1,413</u></u>	<u><u>3,324</u></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>
	<u><u>35,350</u></u>	<u><u>34,796</u></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>
	<u><u>6,197</u></u>	<u><u>5,638</u></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)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
- 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
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	192,489	25,469	217,958	202,834
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

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
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	12,280	27,314
	<hr/>	<hr/>

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	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Incoming Cash Resources	5,815	52,400	58,215	21,583
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash Resources Use				
Other expenses	-	800	800	-
Management Charges	505	-	505	596
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash Resources Used	505	800	1,305	596
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
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)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net movement in funds	15,124	51,600	66,724	(31,726)
Funds brought forward	177,365	-	177,365	209,091
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Funds carried forward	192,489	51,600	244,089	177,365
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

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
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	192,489	51,600	244,089	177,365
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Garden room project		40,000		
Grounds access project		11,600		
		<hr/>		
		51,600		
		<hr/>		

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:.....