

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

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**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 £
<b>RECEIPTS</b>						
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
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		99,150	4,803	1,193	105,146	169,453
Sale of Investments		-	26,103	-	26,103	-
Insurance Claim Proceeds		-	-	-	-	3,358
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		99,150	30,906	1,193	131,249	172,811
<b>PAYMENTS</b>						
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
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		156,020	626	83	156,729	136,505
Purchase of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	2,562
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		156,020	626	83	156,729	139,067
<b>NET RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS)</b>						
<b>FOR THE YEAR</b>		(56,870)	30,280	1,110	(25,480)	33,744
Transfers between Funds		75,887	(62,777)	(13,110)	-	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN CASH FUNDS</b>		19,017	(32,497)	(12,000)	(25,480)	33,744
<b>TOTAL CASH FUNDS</b>						
<b>BROUGHT FORWARD</b>		27,099	110,213	25,469	162,781	129,037
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL CASH FUNDS</b>		46,116	77,716	13,469	137,301	162,781
<b>CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

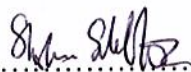
**ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH**

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

**AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 £	2024 £
<b>CHURCH CASH FUNDS</b>					
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		-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL CHURCH CASH FUNDS</b>		<u>59,585</u>	<u>77,716</u>	<u>137,301</u>	<u>162,781</u>
<b>OTHER ASSETS</b>					
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>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>					
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 £
<b>1. OFFERINGS</b>		
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.

<b>4. CIRCUIT ASSESSMENT</b>	<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**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>5. SALARIES</b>		
Secretary	4,498	7,247
Others	7,780	9,687
Payroll admin charge	42	69
	<u>12,320</u>	<u>17,003</u>
	<u><u>12,320</u></u>	<u><u>17,003</u></u>
<p>The average number of persons employed was 2 (2024 - 2).</p> <p>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.</p>		
<b>6. DONATIONS MADE</b>		
Connexional	-	-
Others	2,969	1,413
	<u>2,969</u>	<u>1,413</u>
	<u><u>2,969</u></u>	<u><u>1,413</u></u>
<b>7. PREMISES COSTS</b>		
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>
	<u><u>43,449</u></u>	<u><u>35,350</u></u>
<b>8. ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES</b>		
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>
	<u><u>5,795</u></u>	<u><u>6,197</u></u>

# ELM RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
<b>9. OTHER EXPENSES</b>		
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:-

	<b>Restricted Fund £</b>	<b>Unrestricted Fund £</b>	<b>Totals 2025 £</b>	<b>2024 £</b>
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)	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
- 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
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	149,143	13,469	162,612	217,958
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

**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.

<b>13. CENTRAL FINANCE BOARD CASH DEPOSITS</b>	<b>2025 £</b>	<b>2024 £</b>
General Fund	73,907	12,280
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	73,907	12,280
	<hr/>	<hr/>

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

**14. ANALYSIS OF RESTRICTED FUNDS**

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

The carried forward Fund value is represented by:-

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

# Elm Ridge Methodist Church, Darlington

Registered Charity No: 1126826

Tel: 07471 323583 | 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 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
<b>Other members of Church Council who are not Trustees of the Charity</b>				
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.

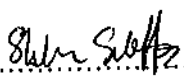
Documents regarding the financial risk of Trusteeship are made available to new Trustees when appointed.

#### **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:.....