

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022 – 2023

## Durham City Methodists at Elvet and North Road

Registered Charity Number 1126844

**Church Business Address:** Elvet Methodist Church  
Old Elvet  
Durham  
DH1 3HL

**Correspondence Address:** Mr. Paul Harrison  
28 Kira Drive  
Rosemount  
Durham  
DH1 5GU  
(Church Council Secretary)

### Church Council (Managing Trustees) as at 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023

<i>Mrs Alison Ainslie</i>	<i>Mrs S. Harrison</i>	<i>Mr M Phillips</i>
<i>Mrs M Best</i>	<i>Mr P. Harrison</i>	<i>Ms J Portrey</i>
<i>Mrs P. Bissell</i>	<i>Ms M Hart</i>	<i>Mr A Purvis</i>
<i>Mr S Bissell</i>	<i>Mrs C. Higham</i>	<i>Mrs G Purvis</i>
<i>Mrs A. Bradbrook</i>	<i>Mr M Higham</i>	<i>Mrs A. Scott</i>
<i>Mr J Chamberlayne</i>	<i>Mary Hogg</i>	<i>Mr J. Scott</i>
<i>Ms H Charman</i>	<i>Pat Johnson</i>	<i>Mr C Rutherford</i>
<i>Mr T. Coburn</i>	<i>Mrs Ada Lam</i>	<i>Mrs M. Thompson</i>
<i>Mrs J. Dundee</i>	<i>Mrs D. Lawson</i>	<i>Mrs K Turner</i>
<i>Ms T Davidson</i>	<i>Mr S Lawson</i>	<i>Mr B Thompson</i>
<i>Miss J. Fielding</i>	<i>Mrs S. Mein</i>	<i>Mrs L Underwood</i>
<i>Mrs A Firth</i>	<i>Mr J Niven</i>	<i>Mr R Warne</i>
<i>Mrs J Fraser</i>	<i>Mr G Parkinson</i>	
<i>Mr J Gibson</i>	<i>Mrs H Phillips</i>	

Deacon R. Lackenby, Rev J. Squares, Revds. C. & J. Jackson, Rev F. Weir

## **Aims and Organisation**

The aims of Durham City Methodists are to:

- Inform people about the love of God manifested in the giving of his Son, Jesus Christ;
- Bear witness to that love by showing care to those in need;
- To provide opportunities to worship God, through Jesus Christ;
- To explore and demonstrate ways to follow Christ and promote God's love in contemporary society by the power of the Holy Spirit

The Church attempts to fulfil these aims by:

- Having well organised and meaningful services of worship each Sunday and on other special dates in the Christian calendar;
- Providing services of baptism, marriage and funeral;
- Helping those in need, by providing a Foodbank and fundraising for charitable purposes;
- Maintaining an orderly and welcoming building which can be used by other organisations;
- Giving young people the opportunity to learn about the Christian faith in a safe and supportive environment, through Junior Church, and by giving adults the chance to explore their faith through house groups and meetings on church premises e.g. midweek prayer group, café-style/ discussion/reflective worship.

## **Organisation**

The managing trustees of the church are the members of the Church Council, who are responsible for the activities of the church and the up-keep of the premises. They appoint the following committees to ensure the efficient running of the Church:

- Property and Finance Committee
- Pastoral Committee
- Open Doors (Mission Team)

## **Activities in 2022 – 2023**

During the 2022 – 2023 year, Durham City Methodists have maintained their life of worship and of service in the community and beyond, both virtually and face to face. Most of the church's activities are of an ongoing nature. In its remit of worship, these consist of

- Sunday worship services;
- the celebration of Holy Communion;
- Junior Church, meeting each Sunday during school term times;
- House groups meeting face to face ;
- Lunch Stop offering inexpensive meals weekly during term time;
- Baptism, wedding ceremonies and funerals.

All of these activities are open to the public.

Its service to the community is manifested in many ways.

- The church is both a collection and distribution point for Foodbank.
- Each month, a charity is chosen to be supported by our monthly coffee mornings. We also regularly support Global Care projects and Suubi Africa
- It supports a number of charities (e.g. special collections in aid of Action for Children, Methodist Homes for the Aged and in response to world disasters and areas of developing humanitarian need). In addition, when possible, offerings at communion services are donated to nominated charities each month.
- Marriage Preparation classes are run as necessary.

- Funerals are conducted in church, at the crematorium and cemeteries.
- A creche is provided during Sunday morning services, when possible, for baptismal services.
- The church has Uniformed Organisation Groups.
- It has an associated Arts and Crafts Group.
- Its members visit the sick and elderly. Birthday cards are sent to those over 80 years of age.
- Every Wednesday (except for the holiday periods) a lunch is prepared and provided, attended by people from the local community.
- It is one of the focal church venues for the Inclusive Christian Student Movement (Durham) and also welcomes students (and other visitors) from many countries.
- We are a Fair-Trade church.
- We belong to the Inclusive Church network.
- We are working towards a gold Eco Award.
- It is a popular venue for concerts and other public events.

**Of special note in the 2022 – 2023 year were the following:**

Recently we combined the two Methodist churches in the City Centre, North Road and Elvet, and are now Durham City Methodists, one church on two sites. We formed our one church council in November 2021. We are an Inclusive Church and as such we are on the membership map of inclusive churches in the UK. We have been granted our Silver Eco Award by A Rocha UK and are actively seeking to cut our carbon emissions and be more energy efficient.

- Despite not being able to hold fundraising events as in the past we raised funds for local and national charities at our monthly coffee mornings and other fundraising and social events including ‘North East Mission – the Durham Winter Night Shelter’ and Mary’s Meals.
- Over the past year a number of charities have received donations from our communion and other special collections.
- Several members holding identified relevant positions within the church (staff, preachers, stewards, worship leaders, pastoral visitors and anyone working with or having contact with young people or vulnerable adults) have refreshed their safeguarding training with an updated module, in accordance with guidelines from The Methodist Church.
- Several members holding identified relevant positions within the church (staff, preachers, stewards, worship leaders, pastoral visitors) have undertaken EDI training and this is ongoing.
- The Chinese church, under the pastoral charge of Rev John Squares and TC Luk, continues to meet and grow with the influx of Hong Kongers. This is still a class of Durham City Methodists.
- We have a small prayer area available for private prayer in the church when the church is open.
- In our Open Doors team we are reviewing our missional and business plan for future growth and events, under the district heading of ‘every church growing’.
- We are looking to increase our community engagement and have actively sought ways to become more involved in the local community.

## Objectives for 2023 – 2024

- The Durham City Methodist Trustees will be working to see how we can grow God's kingdom as we all face the challenges before us and continue to become one church on two sites.
- We will continue our ongoing commitments, implement relevant aspects of the circuit plan and support areas of activity arising from our Open Doors hospitality group meetings, both virtual and face to face when possible.
- We intend to make Elvet and North Road sites more visible and welcoming to the community. We are considering installing artistic structures in the front garden of the Elvet site to highlight church seasons e.g. Easter, Pentecost, a Nativity scene for Christmas etc.
- We hope to be working more in our local community eg during the winter months partnering other local people in the Durham Winter Night Shelter.
- Having one of the largest church buildings in our circuit we seek to offer alternatives for congregations of other churches, as well as students and visitors to the city.
- We continue to provide variety of worship, offering occasional café-style, Iona and Taizé style services, introducing new hymns and hosting joint services with other Methodists, Anglican and Chinese churches. We will explore expanding mid-week services and developing 'Messy Church' worship for young families.
- Our Methodist Students have amalgamated with students from the Church of England and other denominations and are now named the Inclusive Christian Movement Durham (ICMD) meeting regularly at both the Elvet site and St Oswald's C of E as well as virtually. The group is open to those with or without any faith to come and explore.
- We hope we can hold Open Church evenings for refreshment when Lumiere returns to Durham in 2025.
- The Chinese Church congregation will continue to meet on Sundays and during the week – worship being offered in Mandarin, Cantonese and English when appropriate.

Elvet Methodist Church  
Old Elvet  
Durham  
DH1 3HL

North Road Methodist Church  
28 North Road  
Durham  
DH1 4SG

**THE METHODIST CHURCH**  
**STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS**

**Durham City Methodists**  
**(Elvet and North Road Methodist Churches)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED**

**31 August 2023**

Durham and Deerness Valley Circuit

Circuit no: **13/11**

**Registered Charity - Registration number**

**1126844**

**Minister:**

Rev John Squares

**Church Stewards:**

Penny Bissell  
Jackie Fielding  
Anne Firth  
Christine Higham  
Joan Portrey  
Kath Turner  
Lynda Underwood

**Treasurer:**

Hilary Phillips

## ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUG 2023

Durham City Methodists  
(Elvet and North Road Methodist Churches)

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Totals this year		Totals last year		Notes
a1	RECEIPTS	Note	£	£	£		£		1
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		91,965	650	92,615		82,771		
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		5,777	90	5,867		646		
a4	Lettings, Wayleave & Other Property		133,100	4,100	137,200		145,175		
a5	Bequests, Donations & Other Receipts		4,403	1,710	6,113		6,414		
a6									
a7									
a8	TOTAL RECEIPTS		235,245	6,550	241,796	(a7)	235,007		
SECTION B									
b1	PAYMENTS								
b2	Circuit Assessment		102,048	0	102,048		109,856		
b3	Donations		4,975	2,900	7,875		4,975		2
b4	Repairs, Maintenance & Improvements		33,970	5,469	39,439		99,043		
b5	Utilities (Insces, water rates, heating & lighting)		30,690	200	30,890		28,884		
b7	Other items		11,316	10,340	21,656		10,369		
b8									
b9	TOTAL PAYMENTS		182,999	18,909	201,908	(b9)	253,127		
SECTION C									
c1	NET RECEIPTS/ PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a8-b9)	52,247	-12,359	39,888		-18,120		
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		93,915	61,610	155,525	(c6)	123,146		
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	146,162	49,251	195,413		105,025		
c4	Transfers and adjustments		-1,692	1,692	0	(c8)	50,500		3
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	144,470	50,943	195,413	(c7)	155,525	(c6)	
SECTION D									
FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS									
d	(these amounts are not included in total receipts/payments figures above)								
d1	Balance brought forward from last year				100		1,984		
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations				8,364		4,592		
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations				7,479		6,476		
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(d1+d2-d3)			985		100		4

**SUMMARY OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTING TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL**
**SECTION E**

Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Church accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 and internal organisations reporting to the Church Council. All internal organisation funds are unrestricted funds.

	INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1	Arts & Crafts	162	162	0	0	10	10
e2	Elvet Flower Fund	817	725	92	0	701	794
e3	Lunch Stop	3,112	1,398	1,713	0	2,317	4,031
e4	Thursday Club	0	663	-663	0	663	0
e5	Messy Mornings	90	142	-52	0	152	100
e6	North Road Fairtrade	0	332	-332	0	332	0
e7	Chinese Church	21,040	18,562	2,478	0	48,378	50,856
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	25,220	21,984	3,237	0	52,553 (e11)	55,790 (e12)
e9	Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	241,796 (a7)	201,908 (b9)	39,888	0 (c8)	155,525 (c6)	195,413 (c7)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	267,016	223,891	43,125	0	208,079 (x)	251,204 (y)
		<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>				

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward

**SECTION F**
**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**
**CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD**

CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH		CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH		CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	
f1	Cash in hand	172		0	
f2	Bank Current Account	21,474		11,570	
f3	Bank Deposit Account	3,625		608	
f4	Central Finance Board	104,343		157,300	
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	25,911		25,936	
f6	Other funds				
f7	<b>SUB TOTAL - Church accounts</b>	<b>155,525</b>	(c6)	<b>195,413</b>	(c7)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	<b>52,553</b>	(e11)	<b>55,790</b>	(e12)
f9	<b>TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH</b>	<b>208,079</b>	(x)	<b>251,204</b>	(y)

**SECTION G**
**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2022	At 31 August 2023	Note
g1	Investments (include Endowments)	8,522	8,160
g2	Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	14,549,363	15,332,690 5
g3	Other Assets	783,327	0 5
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end	68,500	60,478
g5	Other Liabilities	0	0

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

g1 Include any other investments

## Durham City Methodists (North Road and Elvet Methodist Churches)

### Loans

At 31/08/2023 the church had outstanding loans as follows:

Lender	Date of loan	Interest rate	Capital remaining	Notes
Methodist Chapel Aid	2014	4.5% (variable)	£6,000.00	This loan for the refurbishment of the former manse at No. 27, North Road is being repaid at £3,000 plus interest per 6 months, the income used for this purpose being rent received for that property.
Durham & Deerness Valley Circuit	2022	1.5% (fixed)	£33,977.92	These loans from the Circuit and from church members to pay for refurbishing the former caretaker's house at No. 8, Old Elvet will be repaid through rent received for that property over the next few years. The Circuit is expected to be repaid within 5 years and the church members will be repaid as soon as possible after that.
3 church members	2022	0%	£20,500.00	

### Endowment Funds

Endowment Name	How the capital is invested	Current Capital Value	Income 2022/23	What the income was used for
Trust 15370: Mrs Margaret Hopper	868 CFB Managed Mixed Fund Units	4,364.30	121.47	Income to General Church Fund
Trust 8312: Surplus Funds	755 CFB Managed Mixed Fund Units	3,796.14	105.65	Income to General Church Fund
Totals		8,160.44	227.12	

### Payment to Trustees

	This year £s	Last year £s
Payments made to trustees for additional services provided to the Church by agreement with the Church Council.	500.00	500.00
Number of trustees (i.e. members of the Church Council) who were paid expenses.	1	1
Nature of the expenses: Payment in lieu of expenses to Mrs P Bissell in her capacity as Church Secretary.	500.00	500.00
Totals	500.00	500.00

### Paid employees

The Church has no paid employees.



## Notes Accompanying the Accounts

### 1 Basis of accounting

With annual total receipts falling below the £250,000 accounting threshold, the accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis in accordance with Charity Commission rules. There have been no changes in accounting conventions from the previous year.

### 2 Donations from Church Funds

The following donations were made from general funds:

To Methodist Funds	£s	To Other Recipients	£s
The World Mission Fund	2290.00	Durham Churches Together	60.00
The Mission in Britain Fund	1490.00	Bible Society	115.00
The Property Fund	345.00	St Cuthbert's Hospice	115.00
The Leybourne Trust	100.00	St Margaret's Centre	115.00
Action for Children	115.00		
All We Can	230.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>4570.00</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>405.00</b>

In addition, £2,900 was donated from the Youth Fund to Global Care to fund three young people from the church on a visit to Spurgeon's Academy, Kibera (Kenya) in Nov/Dec 2022.

### 3 Transfers and adjustments

£1691.84 has been transferred from General to Restricted funds to prevent overspend of restricted funds and to correct an income allocation error in 2021/22 accounts.

### 4 Money Received on Behalf of External Organisations or Individuals

The following amounts were raised and passed onto other charities through special collections, coffee mornings etc. Gift Aid and GASDS were claimed on collections, where appropriate, and passed on.

Where a collection was made after 5th April, the GASDS on the collection has been passed on to the charity in advance of receiving it from HMRC, but as we cannot claim GASDS from HMRC until the end of the tax year in April 2024, this leaves us with a negative amount outstanding.

In addition the church received fees from weddings/funerals which were passed on to individuals, and a donation from another church to pass to the Circuit for use of their photocopier.

	Brought forward	Received	Passed on	Outstanding at 31/08/2023
DEC – Pakistan appeal	£0.00	£662.88	£662.88	£0.00
Durham Winter Night Shelter	£10.00	£699.94	£709.94	£0.00
Easter Offering – World Mission Fund	-£10.00	£322.30	£349.44	-£37.14
Bin Twinning	£0.00	£153.00	£153.00	£0.00
Durham Foodbank	£100.20	£17.00	£117.20	£0.00
Royal British Legion	£0.00	£232.46	£232.46	£0.00
Mary's Meals	£0.00	£2,085.20	£2,085.20	£0.00
Crisis at Christmas	£0.00	£327.70	£327.70	£0.00
Lisa Shaw's Little 'Uns	£0.00	£289.15	£289.15	£0.00
St Margaret's Centre	£0.00	£281.00	£281.00	£0.00
DEC – Turkey & Syria Earthquake appeal	£0.00	£652.88	£652.88	£0.00
St Cuthbert's Hospice	£0.00	£299.71	£299.71	£0.00
Daft as a Brush	£0.00	£327.65	£327.65	£0.00
RT Projects	£0.00	£250.10	£250.10	£0.00
Christian Aid	£0.00	£152.00	£158.75	-£6.75
RefUSE	£0.00	£276.45	£276.45	£0.00
Water Aid	£0.00	£37.00	£0.00	£37.00
Circuit trip to 3Generate	£0.00	£992.37	£0.00	£992.37
Payments for individuals and the Circuit	£0.00	£305.00	£305.00	£0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£100.20</b>	<b>£8,363.79</b>	<b>£7,478.51</b>	<b>£985.48</b>

### 5 Value of Buildings & Assets at 31/08/2023

	£s	
Church Building (Elvet)	10,405,295	The churches and other buildings are in excess of 100 years old and are listed at their insurance value, in accordance with guidelines issued by the Methodist Connexion. In previous years' accounts the organ at Elvet was listed separately but now it is included with the building valuation.
Church Building (North Road)	4,005,012	
House at No. 27 North Road	663,330	
House at No. 8 Old Elvet	259,053	
	<b>15,332,690</b>	

## DECLARATIONS

### Treasurer

I confirm that I have prepared the accounts from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church Council

Signature of  
Treasurer

H M Phillips

Date

24/10/2023

Name

H M Phillips

Address

35 Archery Rise,  
Durham,  
DH1 4LA

### Presentation to the Church Council for approval

I confirm that the Accounts have been presented to the Church Council on 24 OCT 23  
and were approved

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

John Squares

Name of the Chair of the meeting

John Squares

Date

24 OCT 23

### Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of

Durham City Methodists

This Report is on the Church Accounts for the year ended 31/08/2023 carried out under Section 43 of the Charities Act 1993, or in Scotland Section 11 of the charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005

### Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) or under Regulation 10 (1)(d) of The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (the 2006 Accounts Regulations) and that an independent examination is needed

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act and section 44(1) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

## Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission and is in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

## Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 41 of the 1993 Act and Section 44 (1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts, and

- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act and Section 44(1)(b) of the 2005 Act and Regulation ( of the 2006 Regulations)

have not been met, or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

Name

PAULINA JENKIN

Signature

P Jenkin

Relevant Professional qualification or body

BA (Hons)

Address

78 Archery Rise Durham DH1 4LA

Date

29/01/24