

**ANNUAL REPORT 2024 – 2025**  
**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 of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025**

Alison Ainslie	Paul Harrison	Hilary Phillips
Margaret Best	Sue Harrison	Matthew Phillips
Penny Bissell	Marion Hart	Joan Portrey
Steve Bissell	Christine Higham	Alan Purvis
Ann Bradbrook	Melvyn Higham	Gwyn Purvis
John Chamberlayne	Mary Hogg	Anne Scott
Trevor Coburn	Pat Johnson	John Scott
Sandra Cooper	Doreen Lawson	Margaret Thompson
Terri Davidson	Stuart Lawson	Angel Tsang
Janelle Dundee	Sue Mein	Kath Turner
Jackie Fielding	John Niven	Lynda Underwood
John Gibson	Alastair Phillips*	Rob Warne

Ministers: Deacon R. Lackenby, Rev J. Squares, Rev John Jebaseelan, Rev F. Weir

\*not a Managing Trustee as under age

## **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
- Provide opportunities to worship God, through Jesus Christ
- 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 2024 – 2025

During the year 2024 – 2025, 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 on-going 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 group meets face to face
- Baptism, wedding ceremonies and funerals.

All 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 UK
- It supports several 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
- 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 by our Lunch Stop team and attended by people from the local community.
- It is one of the focal church venues for the Inclusive Christian Student Movement (Durham) and 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.
- We have a presence at Durham Pride.

## **Of special note in the 2024 – 2025 year were the following:**

We have 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 are now prayerfully seeking to work out which of our two sites we can retain as we do not have the capacity and resources to maintain 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.

- We agreed to work to raise much needed funds for one main project St Cuthbert's Hospice, Durham. Meanwhile we continue holding fundraising events at our 10 monthly coffee mornings where we raise funds for local and national charities. We hold other fundraising and social events for charities such as 'Suubi Africa UK' and 'Global Care'. We were open from the morning till early afternoon to offer refreshments to members of the public during the Miners' Gala in July.
- Over the past year several 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.
- Outreach is being made with families and their very young children via our Monday Messy Mornings.
- The Chinese church, under the pastoral charge 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.
- Our Open Doors team are working through 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 2025 – 2026;**

- 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 as one church on two sites and eventually become one church on one site.
- 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 an inclusive church welcoming all. We have a presence on social media.
- We hope to be working more in our local community eg during the year partnering other local people in the missional opportunities that arise with FREE provided by DAAC Charity (Durham Agency Against Crime) and the Asylum Seekers Drop-In run by the Church of England.
- 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 in 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 who amalgamated with students from the Church of England and other denominations and are now named the Inclusive Christian Movement Durham (ICMD) meet regularly at the Elvet site and at 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.
- The Chinese Church congregation continue to meet on Sundays and during the week – worship being offered in Mandarin, Cantonese and English when appropriate. They are now looking to become a church with their own governance structure but will continue worshipping at DCM Elvet.

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 2025**

Durham and Deerness Valley Circuit

Circuit no: **13/11**

**Registered Charity - Registration number**

**1126844**

**Minister:**

Rev John Squares

**Church Stewards:**

Penny Bissell	Sue Mein
Clare Coburn	Joan Portrey
Trevor Coburn	David Ramsden
Jackie Fielding	Kath Turner
Christine Higham	Lynda Underwood

**Treasurer:**

Hilary Phillips

SECTION A			Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year	Notes
a1	RECEIPTS	Note	£	£	£	£	1
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		85,412	0	85,412	84,645	
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		12,236	131	12,367	9,495	
a4	Lettings, Wayleave & Other Property		98,633	18,307	116,940	94,347	
a5	Bequests, Donations & Other Receipts		13,280	180	13,460	674	
a6							
a7							
a8	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>209,561</b>	<b>18,618</b>	<b>228,179</b>	<b>189,160</b>	

SECTION B							
b1	PAYMENTS						
b2	Circuit Assessment		106,672	0	106,672	104,320	
b3	Donations		4,945	0	4,945	4,975	2
b4	Repairs, Maintenance & Improvements		52,239	0	52,239	81,268	
b5	Utilities (Insurance, water, heating & lighting)		37,799	0	37,799	31,181	
b7	Other items		24,086	17,000	41,086	26,806	
b8							
b9	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b>225,741</b>	<b>17,000</b>	<b>242,741</b>	<b>248,549</b>	

SECTION C							
c1	<b>NET RECEIPTS/ PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR</b>	(a8-b9)	-16,180	1,618	-14,562	-59,389	
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		117,190	18,834	136,024	195,413	
c3	<b>Sub total</b>	(c1+c2)	101,010	20,452	121,462	136,024	
c4	Transfers and adjustments		202,601	0	202,601	0	3
c5	<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR</b>	(c3+c4)	<b>303,611</b>	<b>20,452</b>	<b>324,063</b>	<b>136,024</b>	(c6)

SECTION D							
<b>FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS</b>							
d	(these amounts are not included in total receipts/payments figures above)						
d1	Balance brought forward from last year				0	985	
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations				10,892	4,956	
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations				10,892	5,942	
d4	<b>BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID</b>	(d1+d2-d3)			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	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 2025 and internal organisations reporting to the Church Council. All internal organisation funds are unrestricted funds.

	<b>INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS</b>	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1	<b>Arts &amp; Crafts</b>	142	142	0	0	10	10
e2	<b>Elvet Flower Fund</b>	200	228	-28	0	904	876
e3	<b>Lunch Stop</b>	2,411	7,487	-5,076	0	6,560	1,484
e4	<b>Messy Mornings</b>	337	337	0	0	100	100
e5	<b>Chinese Church</b>	15,186	23,382	-8,196	0	46,869	38,673
e6							
e7							
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	18,276	31,577	-13,300	0	54,443 (e11)	41,143 (e12)
e9	<b>Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)</b>	228,179 (a7)	242,741 (b9)	-14,562	202,601 (c8)	136,024 (c6)	324,063 (c7)
e10	<b>TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH</b>	246,455	274,318	-27,862	202,601	190,468 (x)	365,206 (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**

	<b>OPENING BALANCES</b> At 01/09/2024	<b>CLOSING BALANCES</b> At 31/08/2025
f1	Cash in hand	138
f2	Bank Current Account	1,474
f3	Bank Deposit Account	489
f4	Central Finance Board	93,386
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	228,576
f6	Other funds	
f7	<b>SUB TOTAL - Church accounts</b>	<b>324,063 (c7)</b>
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	<b>41,143 (e12)</b>
f9	<b>TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH</b>	<b>365,206 (y)</b>

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

	At 1 September 2024	At 31 August 2025	Note
g1	Investments (include Endowments)	8,808	
g2	Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	16,313,774	5
g3	Other Assets	0	
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end	29,477	
g5	Other Liabilities	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 31/08/2025 the church had outstanding loans as follows:

Lender	Date of loan	Interest rate	Capital remaining	Notes
Durham & Deerness Valley Circuit	2022	1.5% (fixed)	£17,177.36	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%	£12,300.00	

### Endowment Funds

Endowment Name	How the capital is invested	Current Capital Value	Income 2024/25	What the income was used for
Trust 15370: Mrs Margaret Hopper	868 CFB Managed Mixed Fund Units	4,710.64	83.92	Income to General Church Fund
Trust 8312: Surplus Funds	755 CFB Managed Mixed Fund Units	4,097.39	73.01	Income to General Church Fund
Totals		8,808.03	156.93	

### 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 gross income 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	2,290.00	Durham Churches Together	30.00
The Mission in Britain Fund	1,490.00	Inclusive Church	100.00
The Property Fund	345.00	Bible Society	115.00
Action for Children	115.00	St Cuthbert's Hospice	115.00
All We Can	230.00	St Margaret's Centre	115.00
Total	<u>4,470.00</u>	Total	<u>475.00</u>

### 3 Transfers and Adjustments

£202,600 has been added to the General Fund as the result of the bequest of Edith Pritchard which has been invested on our behalf by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes in TMCP trust no. 14587. For receipts and payments accounting, endowments are excluded from gross income.

### 4 Money Received on Behalf of External Organisations

The following amounts were raised and passed onto other charities through special collections, coffee mornings etc.

	Brought forward	Received	Passed on	Outstanding at 31/08/2025
Christian Aid	0.00	7.00	7.00	0.00
Mary's Meals	0.00	9.00	9.00	0.00
Great North Air Ambulance	0.00	2.87	2.87	0.00
Leprosy Mission	0.00	10.38	10.38	0.00
Circuit trip to 3Generate	0.00	1,119.10	1,119.10	0.00
All We Can	0.00	250.35	250.35	0.00
Royal British Legion	0.00	24.08	24.08	0.00
Durham City of Sanctuary	0.00	227.55	227.55	0.00
Crisis	0.00	1,335.00	1,335.00	0.00
Durham Winter Night Shelter	0.00	694.27	694.27	0.00
Daft as a Brush	0.00	1,115.20	1,115.20	0.00
St Cuthbert's Hospice	0.00	3,630.52	3,630.52	0.00
UNICEF Sudan appeal	0.00	302.00	302.00	0.00
Durham Samaritans	0.00	511.50	511.50	0.00
Water Aid	0.00	1,175.18	1,175.18	0.00
Communities Together Durham	0.00	381.52	381.52	0.00
Cancer Research UK	0.00	96.75	96.75	0.00
Total	<u>0.00</u>	<u>10,892.27</u>	<u>10,892.27</u>	<u>0.00</u>

### 5 Value of Buildings & Assets at 31/08/2025

	£s
Church Building (Elvet)	11,071,093
Church Building (North Road)	4,261,278
House at No. 27 North Road	705,774
House at No. 8 Old Elvet	275,629
	<u>16,313,774</u>

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.

## 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

14/10/25

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 14-10-25 and were approved.

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

P. Lewis

Name of the Chair of the meeting

Rev. Les Nevill

Date

14-10-2025

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

Durham City Methodists

This Report is on the Church Accounts for the year ended 31/08/2025 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)9b) 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

Jenkin

Relevant Professional qualification or body

Retired Certified Accountant

Address

78 Archery Rise, Durham, DH1 4LA

Date

18/5/2026