

Alderley Edge and Knutsford Methodist Circuit

Trustees' Annual Report and Circuit Reserves Policy

2020-2021

Introduction

Alderley Edge and Knutsford Methodist Circuit is situated in a rural area of North East Cheshire. Alderley Edge is the larger church in the east of the circuit, sheltering under the Edge, a natural sandstone ridge standing on the Cheshire plain. Knutsford, a thriving market town, is at the western end.

Around the two centres, the circuit includes the village chapels of Mottram St Andrew, Mobberley, Snelson and Plumley. The Circuit is part of the Manchester and Stockport Methodist District

Circuit Aims and Objectives

The Charity objective is to act as a resource provider within the area around Alderley Edge and Knutsford for the Methodist Church:

The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been since the Date of Union the advancement of:

- The Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and discipline of The Methodist Church
- Any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional, District, Circuit, local or other organisation of The Methodist Church
- Any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to The Methodist Church
- Any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to The Methodist Church

Aims and objectives will be met by:

- the organisation and resourcing of regular public acts of worship open to members of the church and non members alike
- the teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups
- the resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved
- taking religious assemblies in local schools
- promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and services

Financial Aims

- To secure and sustain the Circuit's viability and future
- To give reassurances to the general public that the Circuit, which is a charity, intends to use all of the money coming into its care for the purposes of the charity

Circuit Mission Statement

Developing Our Calling through Whole Life Discipleship

- In Worship – To grow deeper into God by underpinning everything we do with God-centred worship and prayer.
- In Service – To be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice.
- In Learning and Caring – To help people grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care.
- In Evangelism – To increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love.

Circuit Mission Policy

Growing healthy Churches which are rooted in Christ

Financial Overview

This document includes all funds held by the Circuit Meeting as Charity Trustees. Our Reserves Policy relates to our general (unrestricted) funds which are freely available to be used for any or all of the purposes of the Circuit.

Other funds are also included for the sake of clarity and openness and to show that the Circuit has a policy for the management of all of its money not simply those which are defined as reserves.

Income

Circuit income is drawn from the assessment paid by the circuit churches and is used to provide for:

- the ministerial oversight and pastoral care of six local churches in the circuit
- the support of a ministry team of three presbyteral ministers and three lay workers: Circuit Administrator; Children and Families Worker; Pioneer Pastor
- the maintenance of the three Circuit manses

Expenditure 2020/2021

- Stipend expenditure and salaries for Lay Workers increase each financial year in line with conference approved increases

As at 31 August 2021, the Circuit Fund (unrestricted general fund) has a balance of £38,515 covering one and a half months' expenditure. £1440 is assigned for the maintenance of Over Peover graveyard. Under Standing Orders, the Circuit must meet its financial obligations in relation to the support of its ministers and the maintenance of the manses. The total cost for the last financial year was £326,041. This included £50,000 taken from the CMTF for works carried out on the three manses.

Our Reserves Policy is to hold approximately three months' expenditure in hand.

Circuit Model Trust Fund balance at the year end is £310,828. This fund derives from bequests, the sale of Over Peover chapel and land at Mobberley and is restricted by the Conference. Of this, £144,148, is assigned to Mobberley Methodist Church from the sale of their tennis court as agreed by the Circuit Meeting. These funds are not included in our general reserves as they are designated by the Circuit Meeting for special projects, however, they could be used should an urgent need arise to meet our financial obligations.

The Charity Commission have agreed that it is appropriate for the trustees to set a policy for the management of the CMTF. That policy is that the funds held in the CMTF are to be used for general Circuit purposes: ministerial expenses, manse repairs and decoration, maintenance of the graveyard at Over Peover, promotion of the work of God in the Circuit. A Circuit Grants Committee, agreed at the Circuit Meeting and made up of members of that meeting, is now in place to assess requests for funding. During 2020/2021, £120,067 was withdrawn from the funds to meet approved requests. The annual CMTF contribution to Manchester and Stockport's DAF amounted to £21,152.

The Charity's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice 2015 as applicable to the Financial Reporting Standard

Trustees

Appointment of Trustees

As at August 2021, there were 36 members of the Circuit Meeting made up of:

- Presbyteral Ministers
- Circuit Stewards
- Circuit Officers

and from each church in the Circuit:

- the Senior Church Steward
- the Church Treasurer
- representatives appointed by each Church Council

Trustee Training

The leaflet 'The Role of a Trustee in The Methodist Church', provided by Methodist Connexion, is given to all new Circuit meeting members as an induction to their role as trustees. Training was delivered in January 2021 by Rev R Hill.

Public Benefit

We confirm the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Structure, Governance and Management

The governing document for the circuit is the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976)

Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD).

Day to day management of the circuit is undertaken by the Circuit Leadership Team.

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Circuit Leadership Team with professional advice taken as required.

There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

Income and Expenditure is being monitored in total and is compared with the approved annual budget on a half yearly basis to detect trends as part of the risk management process to avoid unforeseen calls on reserves.

Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

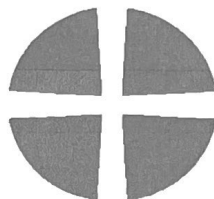
- the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults
- the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
- the establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.
- we will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.

- we will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.
- we will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
- we will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- we will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- in all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice

The Alderley Edge and Knutsford Methodist Circuit commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.

The Alderley Edge and Knutsford Methodist Circuit commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

November 2021



**Circuit
Accruals Accounts
2020-2021**

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
(ACCRUALS BASIS)
for the year ended 31 August 2021**

Alderley Edge and Knutsford

Circuit

Registered Charity - Registration number

1127258

District No / 19/19

Ministers

Rev Alan Bradley

Rev Susan Swires

Rev J Scott Manning

Circuit Stewards

Mrs E Hall

Mr P Thompson

Mrs R Peak

Mr R Applewhite

Mr P Bland

Circuit Treasurer

Mrs C Fleming

Name of Circuit: Alderley Edge and Knutsford							Circuit No: 19/19	
Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2021								
	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	2020-21
		£	£	£	£	£	£	
Income								
1 Donations and legacies								0
2 Income from monetary investments		37	1,960					1,997
3 Income from investment properties								0
4 Assessments on Churches		274,853						274,853
5 Capital Receipts								0
6 Grants received								0
7 Other charitable income		44,875						
8 Total income		319,765	1,960	0	0	0		321,725
Expenditure								
9 Grants and donations		5,000						5,000
10 Salaries and associated costs		193,234						193,234
11 Property maintenance		73,041						73,041
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy								0
13 District Assessment & Levy		41,408						41,408
14 Depreciation								0
15 Office expenses		7,514						7,514
16 Other outgoings		5,844	142,121					147,964
17 Total charitable expenditure		326,041	142,121	0	0	0		468,162
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments								0
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties								
20 Net income/(expenditure)		-6,276	-140,161	0	0	0		-146,437
21 Transfers between funds								0
22 Other gains/(losses)								
23 Net movement in funds		-6,276	-140,161	0	0	0		-146,437
24 Total funds brought forward		1,342,791	450,989					1,793,780
25 Total funds carried forward		1,336,515	310,828	0	0	0		1,647,343

Name of Circuit: Alderley Edge and Knutsford		Circuit No: 19/19						
Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2021								
		General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2020/21	Totals 2019/20
	Notes to the Accounts	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets								
Circuit Manses & Equipment		1,300,000					1,300,000	
Investment properties							0	
Investments							0	
Total fixed assets		1,300,000	0	0	0	0	1,300,000	1,300,000
Current Assets								
Debtors							0	
Loans by the Circuit							0	
Investments with TMCP			310,117			711	310,828	450,989
Central Finance Board Deposits		31,868					31,868	34,821
Cash at Bank and in hand		16,444					16,444	20,890
Total current assets		48,312	310,117	0	0	711	359,140	506,700
Current liabilities								
Creditors (due in under 1 year)		11,797					11,797	12,920
Grants payable within 2018-19							0	0
Total current liabilities		11,797	0	0	0	0	11,797	12,920
Net current assets/liabilities		36,515	310,117	0	0	711	347,343	493,780
Total assets less current liabilities		1,336,515	310,117	0	0	711	1,647,343	1,793,780
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)								
Grants payable after 2018-19							0	
Loans to the Circuit							0	
							0	
Net assets		1,336,515	310,117	0	0	711	1,647,343	1,793,780
Funds of the Circuit								
General Fund (Unrestricted)		1,336,515					1,336,515	1,342,791
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			310,117				310,117	450,989
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)				0			0	0
Total Unrestricted Funds							1,646,632	1,793,780
Restricted Funds					0		0	
Endowment Funds						711	711	
Total Funds		1,336,515	310,117	0	0	0	1,647,343	1,793,780
Signed					CJ Mening.			
Circuit Treasurer								

Name of Circuit: Alderley Edge and Knutsford

No: 19/19

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these accruals-based accounts for the year to 31 August 2021 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that they include all funds under the control of the Circuit meeting.

Signature of treasurer *CJ Fleming* Date *02/11/2021*

Name and address of treasurer

Mrs Carol Fleming

11 Rowley Way, Knutsford, Cheshire

Post Code WA16 9AU

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 ~~were~~/will be* presented to the Circuit meeting held on 15 March 2022

Signature of the Chair of the meeting *A Bradley*

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev Alan Bradley

Date *02/11/2021*

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Alderley Edge and Knutsford Circuit

Charity Number 1125258

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Alderley Edge and Knutsford Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2021 set out on pages ... to As the Circuit'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 Circuit'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.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Independent Examiner's Statement

[The Circuit's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of Inst. of Chartered Management Accountants

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination *Delete if not applicable ie all R&P accounts*
- the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts *Delete if not applicable ie all R&P accounts.*

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.

I have/have not* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner

Name of independent examiner KRAN STAMPER

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner A.C.M.A.

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 106 GROVE PARK

KNUTSFORD Post Code WA16 8QB

Date 3rd March 2022

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Circuit: Alderley Edge and Knutsford

No: 19/19

Declarations and Scrutiny

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Name and address of treasurer

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Post Code WA16 9AU

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Signature of the Chair of the meeting *A Bradley*

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev Alan Bradley

Date *02/11/2021*

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Signature of independent examiner



Name of independent examiner

BRIAN STAMPER

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

A.C.M.A.

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 106 GROVE PARK

KNUTSFORD

Post Code WA16 8QB

Date

3rd March 2022

* delete or circle as appropriate