



**Circuit
Accruals Accounts
2023-2024**

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
(ACCRUALS BASIS)
for the year ended 31 August 2024**

Alderley Edge and Knutsford

Circuit

Registered Charity - Registration number

1127258

District No 1/1

Ministers

Rev Alan Bradley
Rev Nick Thompson
Rev Sincere Makunde

Circuit Stewards

Mr P Thompson
Mrs E Hall
Mrs R Peak
Mr R Applewhite
Mr P Bland
Mr J H Waters (Secretary)

Circuit Treasurer

Mrs C Fleming

Name of Circuit - Alderley Edge and Knutsford						Circuit No 1/1					
Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2024											
	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	2023-24			
		£	£	£	£	£	£				
Income											
1 Donations and legacies							£0				
2 Income from monetary investments		£3,425	£22,214			£38	£25,677				
3 Income from investment properties							£0				
4 Assessments on Churches		£226,805					£226,805				
5 Capital Receipts			£298,254				£298,254		Sale of property		
6 Grants received		£5,000					£5,000				
7 Other charitable income		£8,224					£8,224				
8 Total income		£243,453	£320,468	£0	£0	£38	£563,959				
Expenditure											
9 Grants and donations		£2,000					£2,000				
10 Salaries and associated costs		£149,350					£149,350				
11 Property maintenance		£20,897					£20,897				
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy							£0				
13 District Assessment & Levy		£50,436	£95,301				£145,737		Levy on sale of property		
14 Depreciation							£0				
15 Office expenses		£7,796					£7,796				
16 Other outgoings		£3,502	£10,500			£38	£14,041				
17 Total charitable expenditure		£233,981	£105,802	£0	£0	£38	£339,820				
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments							£0				
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties											
20 Net income/(expenditure)		£9,473	£214,666	£0	£0	£0	£224,139				
21 Transfers between funds							£0				
22 Other gains/(losses)											
23 Net movement in funds		£9,473	£214,666	£0	£0	£0	£224,139				
		£1,370,318	£276,948			£711	£1,647,977				
25 Total funds carried forward		£1,379,791	£491,614	£0	£0	£711	£1,872,116				

Name of Circuit - Alderley Edge and Knutsford							Circuit No 1/1	
Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024								
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	Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2023/24	Totals 2022/23
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets								
Circuit Manses & Equipment		£1,300,000					£1,300,000	£1,300,000
Investment properties							£0	£0
Investments							£0	£0
Total fixed assets		£1,300,000	£0	£0	£0	£0	£1,300,000	£1,300,000
Current Assets								
Debtors							£0	£0
Loans by the Circuit							£0	£0
Investments with TMCP			£491,614			£711	£492,325	£277,659
Central Finance Board Deposits		£73,495					£73,495	£86,861
Cash at Bank and in hand		£16,725					£16,725	£13,633
Total current assets		£90,221	£491,614	£0	£0	£711	£582,546	£358,153
Current liabilities								
Creditors (due in under 1 year)		£10,430					£10,430	£10,176
Grants payable within 2022-23							£0	£0
Total current liabilities		£10,430	£0	£0	£0	£0	£10,430	£10,176
Net current assets/liabilities		£79,791	£491,614	£0	£0	£711	£572,116	£347,977
Total assets less current liabilities		£1,379,791	£491,614	£0	£0	£711	£1,872,116	£1,647,977
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)								
Grants payable after 2022-23							£0	£0
Loans to the Circuit							£0	£0
Net assets		£1,379,791	£491,614	£0	£0	£711	£1,872,116	£1,647,977
Funds of the Circuit								
General Fund (Unrestricted)		£1,379,791					£1,379,791	£1,300,000
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			£491,614				£491,614	£277,659
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)				£0			£0	£86,861
Total Unrestricted Funds							£1,871,405	£1,664,520
Restricted Funds					£0		£0	£13,633
Endowment Funds						£711	£711	£0
Total Funds		£1,379,791	£491,614	£0	£0	£0	£1,872,116	£1,647,977
Signed <i>C Fleming</i>								
Circuit Treasurer <i>CAROL FLEMING</i>								

Name of Circuit ALDERLEY EDGE & KNUTSFORD No 1/1

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these accruals-based accounts for the year to 31 August 2024 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 12/12/2024

Name and address of treasurer 11 ROWLEY WAY, KNUTSFORD

Post Code WA16 9AU

Presentation to the Circuit meeting

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 ~~were~~ will * be presented to the Circuit meeting held on: 31/03/2025.

Signature of the Chair of the meeting: A Bradley

Name of the Chair of the meeting: Rev Alan Bradley Date 10/2/2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

ALDERLEY EDGE & KNUTSFORD Circuit

Charity Number 1127258

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Circuit for the year ended 31 August 2024 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

Name of Circuit ALDERLEY EDGE - KNITSFORD No 1/1

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 (insert name of applicable listed body)]. Delete [] if not applicable.

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 i.e. all R&P accounts*
- the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts *Delete if not applicable i.e. 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: BRIAN STAMPER

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

Name of firm (where appropriate):

Address: 106 GROVE PARK

KNUTSFORD, CHESHIRE Post Code: WA16 8QB

Date: 13/5/2025

* delete or circle as appropriate

Alderley Edge and Knutsford Methodist Circuit

Trustees' Annual Report

2023-2024

Circuit Mission Statement

Growing healthy Churches which are rooted in Christ

Alderley Edge and Knutsford was formed as a new Circuit in 1864 growing out of the Macclesfield Circuit and has been enabling the mission of the Methodist Church in the local towns and villages ever since. Situated in a rural area of North East Cheshire, the Circuit comprises churches in Alderley Edge, Knutsford and in the villages of Mottram St Andrew, Mobberley and Plumley. The Circuit is part of the North West District.

Our Purpose:

The Alderley Edge and Knutsford Circuit exists to nurture and grow healthy Churches which are rooted in Christ, to reflect the love of God to all people so that we may all be transformed by knowing and following Jesus.

Our Vision:

We believe the Christian faith is fostered in communities of love where Christ is at the centre. We have a desire to work with God's Spirit to see our Churches grow, to foster new communities of faith, to enable passionate worship, intentional faith development, loving service, and caring mission.

Our Way of Working:

- To develop and encourage teams across the Circuit.
 - *Provide weekly staff prayer for all Circuit employees,*
 - *Ensure regular ministerial staff meetings.*
 - *Hold regular CLT meetings and a retreat day each year.*
 - *Host quarterly Local preachers meetings.*
 - *Circuit finance group, Property Stewards Group and Treasurers meetings as required.*
- To communicate in an open, transparent and encouraging way.
 - *We will utilise the quarterly magazine to share news, encouragement and events.*
 - *Seek to develop web site and Facebook page as a resource, to promote what is going on across circuit.*
 - *Share ideas and opportunities within the CLT and across the Circuit to identify key areas for growth.*
 - *Encourage participation in Circuit meetings.*
- To seek to share and develop resources to fulfil our vision.
 - *Discern people's gifts, encourage and equip them for ministry.*
 - *Provide training for worship leaders, house group leaders, local preachers etc.*
 - *Begin conversations around fewer church councils and new ways of sharing responsibility.*
 - *Provide teaching on generous and sacrificial giving.*
- To work collaboratively where possible, looking to develop ecumenical links and partnership working with other agencies.

- *Review the opportunities for working together.*
- *Ministers to actively work in churches together groups.*
- *Engage with the new District Mission Plan and mission opportunities in Cheshire East.*
- To ensure safeguarding of all.
 - *We are committed to our Safeguarding policy and will seek to share and monitor good practice, provide training, and respond well.*
- To maintain good governance and financial integrity.
 - *We will train and equip members of the Circuit meeting and church council trustees in their responsibilities under CPD and Charity Law.*
 - *Instigate the clear policy on CMTF (Circuit Model Trust Fund) grants.*
 - *The Circuit will model good practise.*

Charity 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

Financial Overview

The annual accounts include 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 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 five 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; Pastoral Worker
- the maintenance of the three Circuit manses
- the maintenance of Over Peover graveyard

Expenditure 2023/2024

- Stipend expenditure and salaries for Lay Workers increase each financial year in line with conference approved increases. Lay workers are paid the Living Wage

The Charity Commission have agreed that it is appropriate for the trustees to set a policy for the management of funds held with TMCP. The policy is that these funds 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.

The Charity's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 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 2024, there were 34 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 is ongoing

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.

Alderley Edge and Knutsford Methodist Circuit

Circuit Reserves Policy

2023-2024

The Circuit seeks to use all its assets for its charitable purposes, whilst continuing to secure and maintain the Circuit's financial viability. It seeks to set a balanced revenue budget, in order that the ongoing normal costs of ministry, mission and management are met from investment income, grants and donations, and Circuit Assessment.

In order to meet its ongoing financial obligations - including the payment of stipends and of District and Connexional assessments quarterly in advance - and to meet unforeseen circumstances, the Circuit needs to maintain sufficient free reserves. These reserves would enable the Circuit to maintain its mission and ministry in the short term if, for whatever reason, individual Churches encounter difficulties in paying their assessments.

1. General reserves

At 31st August 202 general reserves totalled £572,116 which include funds held in the Co-operative Bank, Central Finance Board, CMTF (see 2), Model Trust Bequest (see 3) and Endowment Funds (see 4). This includes the benefit of the additional capital receipt from the sale of Over Peover Methodist Church and land at Mobberley. Funds held with TMCP are neither designated nor restricted so are included in our reserves.

Our policy is to maintain 3 months of general expenditure in reserves. Expenditure in 2023/24 was £233,981 thus requiring a reserve of approximately £58,395. In addition, we have three manses which need to be maintained and always carry a risk of significant repair or needing significant renewal. Whilst there is an allowance in the budget for this, Circuit Meeting have agreed the use of CMTF for significant works. Allowing for £125,000, which Circuit Meeting have agreed is for use by Mobberley Methodist Church, Circuit held funding for almost 23 months in reserves.

2. Circuit Model Trust Fund

This totals £457,214 and represents a further unrestricted fund, held with TMCP. It was agreed by Circuit Meeting that Mobberley Methodist Church have access to a part of these funds as they were from the sale of the tennis court adjacent to the manse. Their portion of CMTF currently stands at approximately £125,000 leaving the Circuit £332,214. Each year, total funds attract a District levy which amounted to £11,538 for 2023/2024. There was also a levy on the sale of the Church at Snelson of £95,301.

3. Model Trust Bequests

These funds total £34,400

4. Endowment funds

These funds total £711